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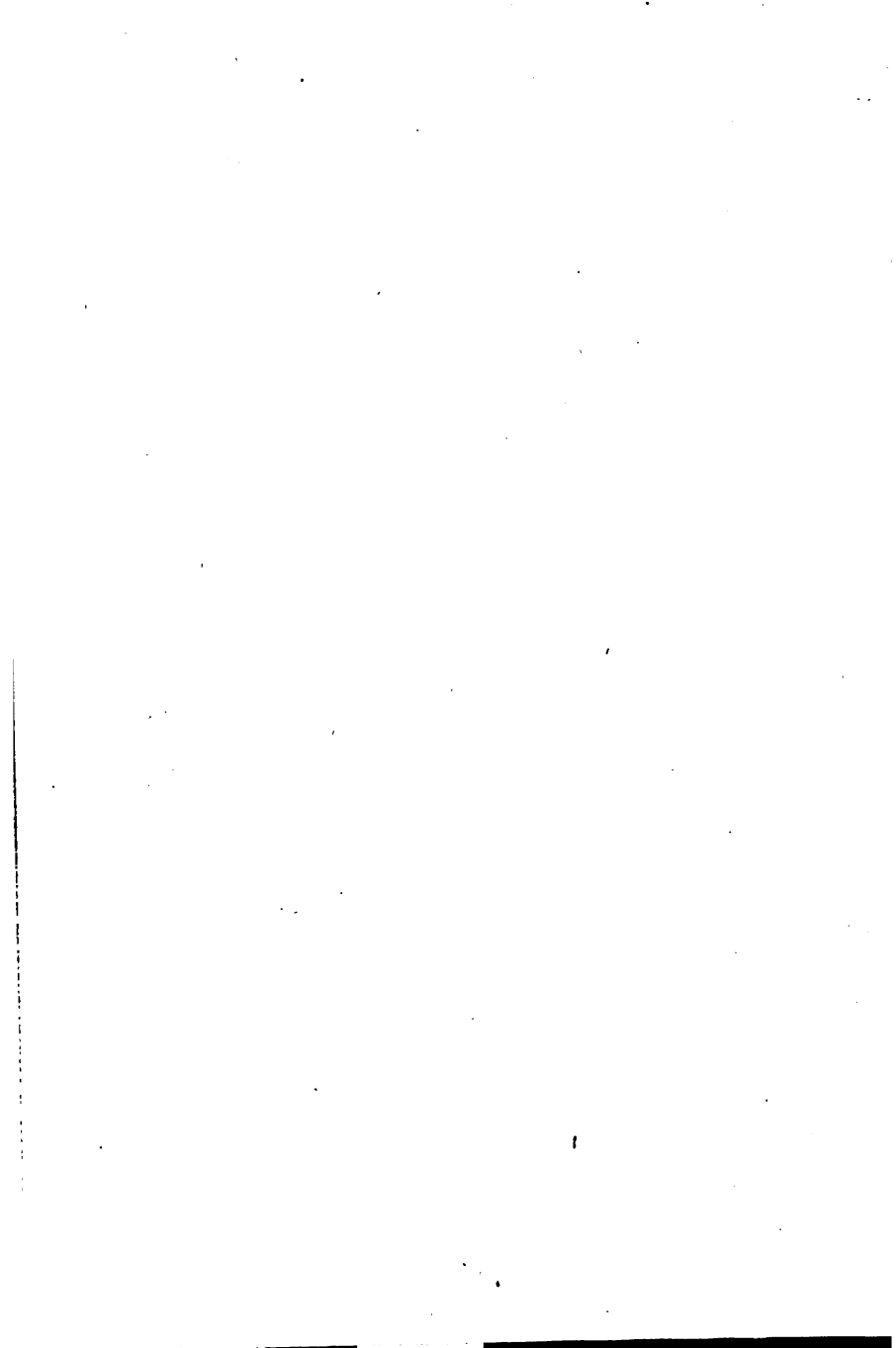
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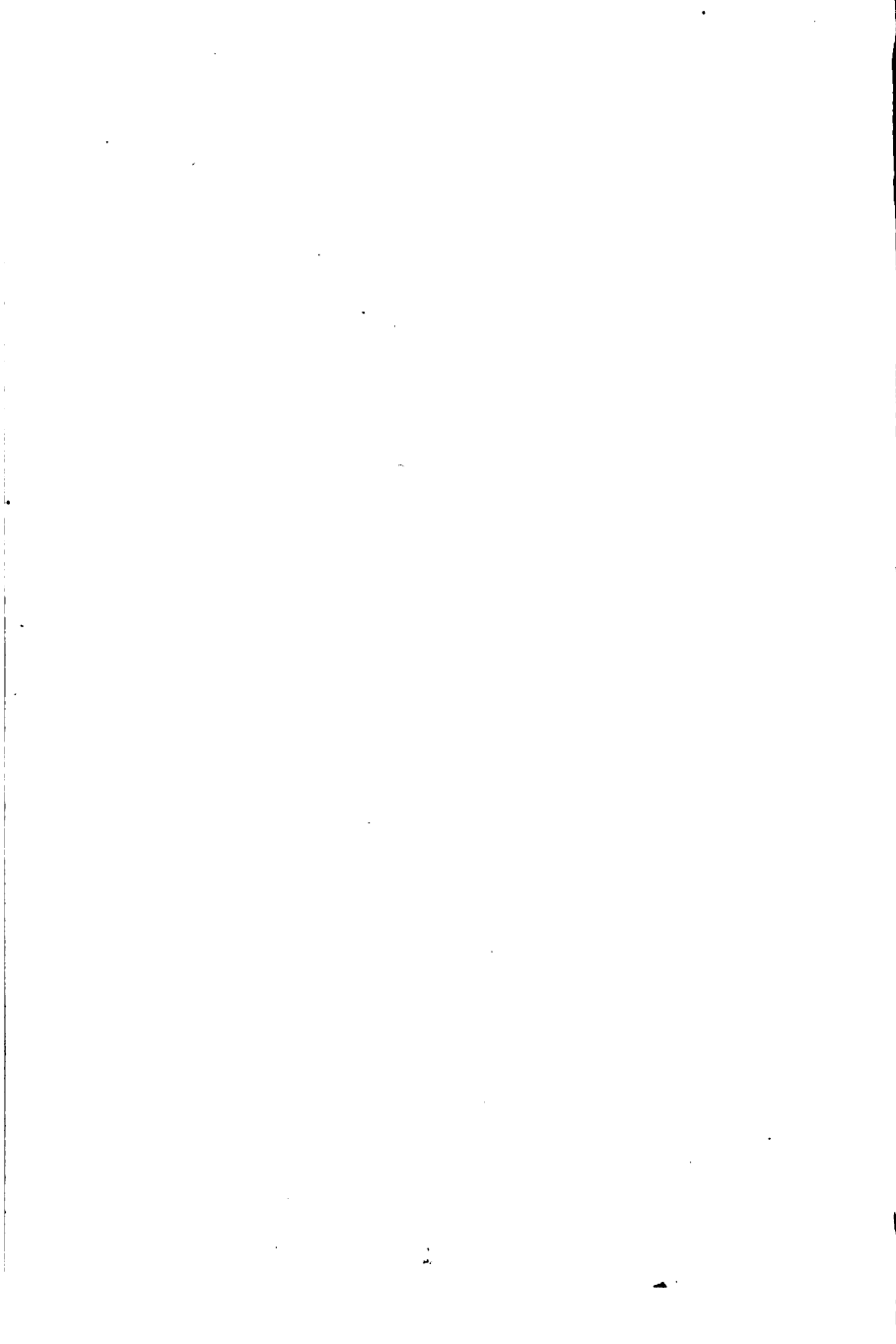
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GREAT NAMES AND NATIONS







The "Accolade," or Ceremony Conferring Knighthood.
See page 78.

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P R E F A C E

THE idea that the first lessons in history should be given in chronological order is one that has gained strength in recent years. This study, as usually pursued in our elementary schools, begins and ends with our own country—a method which leaves the children profoundly ignorant of the rest of the world, and gives them the most erroneous ideas as to the relative age and importance of the United States.

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H. B. N.

January 30, 1907.

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Invasion of the Roman Empire by the Savage Huns.

GREAT NAMES AND NATIONS

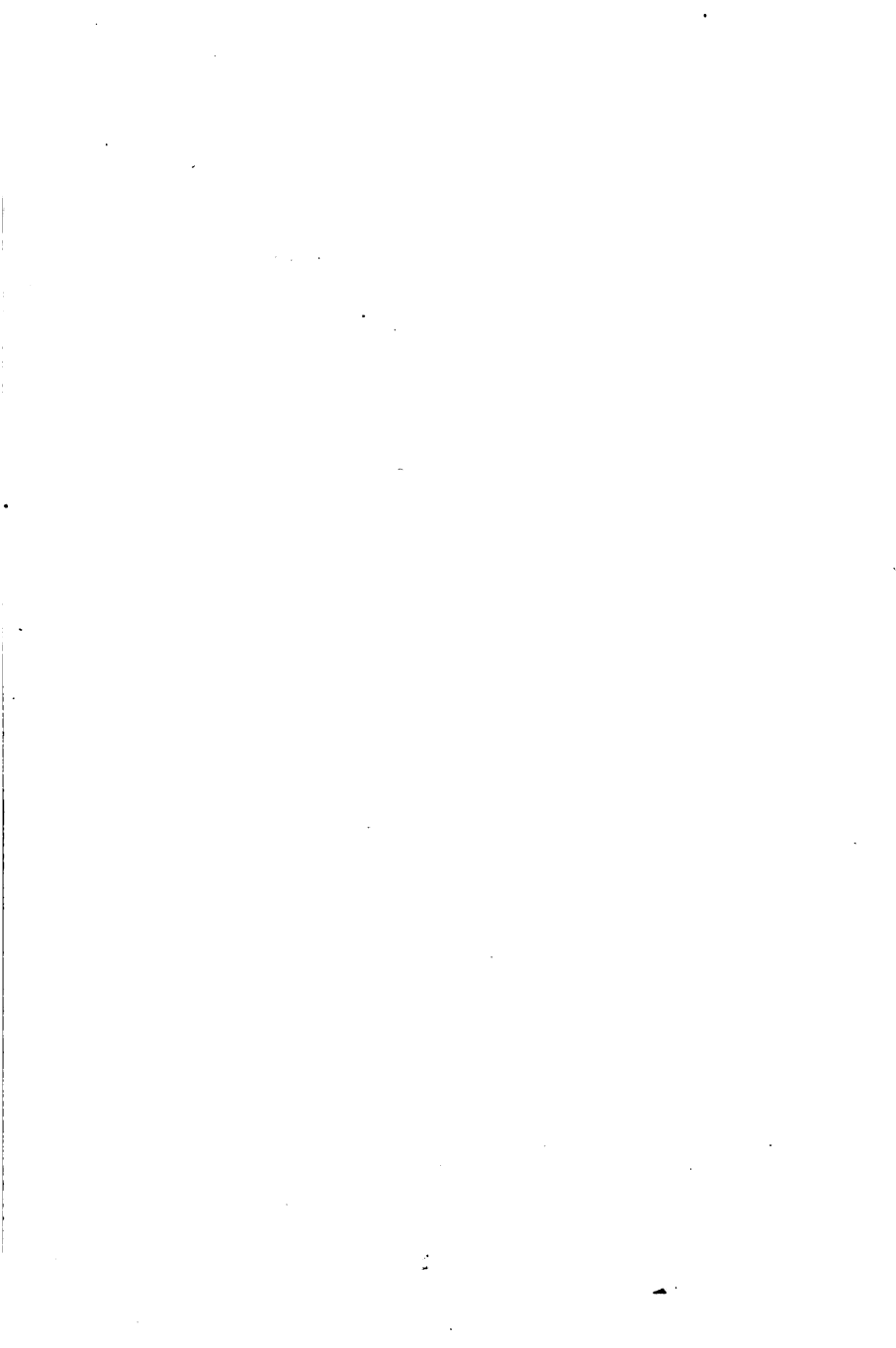
THE BARBARIAN INVADERS

ON the northern boundary of the Roman Empire there was a vast stretch of country inhabited by many wild tribes.

The Romans gave little attention to these people except to beat them back when they invaded the Roman lands. But the time came when the empire grew weak and the barbarians grew strong. Then they swarmed over the Roman boundaries and divided the old empire among themselves.

With the exception of At'-ti-la and his Huns, these invaders belonged to the Teu-ton'-ic, or German'-ic, race. They were a tall, strong people, with light hair and eyes that Tac'-i-tus says were "fiercely blue." Tacitus was a Roman who wrote a book about the Germans. Julius Cæsar also tells us about them in his account of his wars in Gaul.

The Germans lived in villages and were ruled by chiefs. A collection of villages was called a hundred. The hundred was ruled by a count, or chief of high rank. The whole tribe was ruled by a king. The people were farmers and raised cat-





Every morning Odin led his brave warriors out to battle. At night they returned and feasted, and drank the mead, or liquor, that the god himself liked best.

Thor, the god of thunder, was the son of Woden. He rode in a chariot drawn by goats, and had a hammer which came back to his hand every time he threw it. This glittering hammer darting through the air was the lightning. The crashing sound of the hammer as it smote the enemies of Thor, or shattered the ice mountains where they lived, was the thunder.

Ti'-eu was, like Mars, a god of war. He was armed with a sword. It was Tieu's sword that Attila believed he had found, and which he made his standard in battle.

Frig'-ga was the wife of Odin and the chief goddess. Her son was Bal'-dur, the god of the warm bright sunshine. According to the Norse story he was killed by Lo'-ki, the spirit of darkness and of evil.

The Germans believed in a multitude of fairies, dwarfs, and giants. The dwarfs were a mysterious little people who lived in the forests and in caves. They were wise and could foretell the future. They possessed great wealth and precious secrets.

The giants were the enemies of the gods and lived in the frozen regions of the North. Some

day it was thought that the giants would begin war against the gods and kill them. Then there would be intense cold, which would destroy all life, and the sun, moon, and stars would disappear. At last the dark and frozen earth would sink into the ocean and that would be the end both of men and gods.

THE STORY OF THE NIBELUNGS

Like the Greeks, the Germans told many myths or stories about their gods and heroes. One of these tales has become so famous that I must tell you some parts of it. The tale is about some dwarfs called Ni'-bel-ungs. The king of these dwarfs once lost a valuable treasure of gold and jewels. A curse rested upon this treasure, and whoever got possession of it was sure to meet with some dreadful misfortune. The collection of stories called the Ni'-bel-ungen Lied is the history of all those who obtained the treasure.

The hero of the tale is Siegfried, the son of King Siegmund, who ruled along the lower Rhine. In his boyhood Siegfried studied forging with a wonderful blacksmith named Mime. He was so much trouble that Mime laid a plot to have him devoured by a dragon. But Siegfried slew the dragon and bathed in its blood. This made his skin so hard that no weapon could wound him.



"Siegfried Slew the Dragon and Bathed in its Blood."

There was one spot, however, just between his shoulders where a leaf from a linden tree fell as he was bathing. The dragon's blood did not touch this part, and a weapon striking it would kill him as easily as another man. Siegfried afterwards killed Mimer and set out in search of adventures.

Once he was passing the mountain where the sons of the king of the Nibelungs lived. They were quarreling about the division of the treasure left them by their father. They asked Siegfried to make the division for them. He did this as fairly as he could, and as a reward for his services they made him a present of their father's sword, Bal'-mung.

But the two dwarfs soon fell to quarreling again and attacked Siegfried himself when he tried to make peace between them. Upon this he slew them both and took the treasure away.

There was so much gold, silver, and gems that twelve wagons were kept busy four days and nights in carrying it away. Al'-ber-ic, a mountain dwarf, tried to keep the hoard. But Siegfried vanquished him and took away his cap of darkness, which made its wearer invisible and gave to one man the strength of twelve.

Soon after this, news came to Siegmund's kingdom about a lovely princess named Kriem-hil'-de. She lived at Worms, in Burgundy, where her brother, Gun'-ther, was king. Her uncle, Ha'-

gen, was the greatest of all the Burgundian warriors. Siegfried determined to win Kriemhilde for his wife and set out with twelve knights for a visit to Worms.

Before his arrival, Kriemhilde had a dream which disturbed her greatly. She had for a pet a beautiful falcon which she had tamed, and she dreamed that two eagles came and snatched it away from her. Her mother, U'-te, told her that this meant that she would have a noble husband and suddenly lose him. On this account Kriemhilde had resolved that she would never marry.

Siegfried soon afterwards arrived at the court of Gunther. For a year he remained without seeing Kriemhilde. Then an army of Saxons and Danes invaded Burgundy. Siegfried led a thousand knights against them and took their king prisoner. You may imagine how gladly the Burgundians welcomed Siegfried. Even Kriemhilde took his hand and thanked him with a kiss.

Meanwhile Gunther too had learned of a fair queen in Iceland by the name of Brun-hil'-de, and wished to woo her. But Brunhilde was a giantess in strength, and any knight to win her must surpass her in leaping, throwing the spear, and pitching the stone.

Siegfried agreed to help Gunther win Brunhilde and Gunther promised him the hand of Kriemhilde. With the aid of his cap of darkness

and the strength that it gave him, Siegfried stood invisible at Gunther's side and helped him to vanquish the Iceland queen.

Brunhilde admitted defeat and came with two thousand of her friends to Worms where she married King Gunther. Siegfried married Kriemhilde and took her to his own kingdom. For a long time all lived happily, and their happiness might have lasted if it had not been for a visit.

Gunther and Brunhilde invited Siegfried and Kriemhilde to visit them at Worms. During the visit the two queens fell into a quarrel over their husbands. Each one insisted that she had married the bravest warrior.

At last Kriemhilde, who had been told the secret by Siegfried, told Brunhilde that it was not Gunther who had vanquished her but Siegfried. This made Brunhilde very angry at Siegfried and she resolved to kill him. In order to do this she got the assistance of Hagen. Hagen told Kriemhilde that he wanted to protect Siegfried in case of danger, and asked her to sew a little red silk cross on his coat just over the spot where he could be wounded. This Kriemhilde did.

One day there was a hunting party, and Hagen in sport challenged Siegfried to run a race with him. Of course Siegfried won the race. While he was waiting for Hagen to come up with him, he stooped to drink at a spring. Just then Hagen

came and hurled his spear at the little red cross on Siegfried's back. The weapon passed through the hero's body and killed him.

This was the sad fate that the treasure of the Nibelungs brought to Siegfried.

Hagen made up a story about being attacked in the wood by robbers, but Kriemhilde well knew that her husband had been killed through a plot of Hagen and Brunhilde.

Kriemhilde planned vengeance, and for this purpose remained at Worms with the thousand knights who had followed Siegfried.

Kriemhilde had the Nibelung treasure brought to Worms where she gave rich jewels and gold to all the people she met. Hagen feared that she would win the love of the people away from Gunther, so he stole the balance of the hoard and sunk it in the river Rhine.

Thirteen years after this time, Attila, king of the Huns, heard of Kriemhilde and asked her to marry him. Knowing that he was a brave warrior and that he had the sword of Tieu, she consented. With her knights she sailed down the Danube to Attila's court and married him.

A little while afterwards she invited Gunther and his court to visit her. Hagen did not want to go, but Gunther wished to have him along, as he was an experienced warrior and knew the way to Attila's court. After their arrival there was a

great banquet. Nine thousand followers of Gunther were there and many of Attila's men.

In the midst of the feast Kriemhilde had the hall set on fire, and when the Burgundians tried to escape they were attacked by Kriemhilde's warriors. A fight followed which lasted several days. At last every Burgundian except Gunther and Hagen was slain.

Kriemhilde had them bound. One of her men killed Gunther, but the queen herself cut off Hagen's head with Siegfried's sword, Balmung. A friend of Hagen's completed the tragedy by slaying Kriemhilde. Thus ends the bloody tale which is the chief poem among the early Germans.

CLOVIS

WE have read how the German tribes under O-do-a'-cer overthrew the Roman Empire in Italy. Twelve years afterwards, in 489, The-od'-o-ric, King of the Os'-tro-goths (East Goths), led a great army with their families and goods into Italy. He overthrew Odoacer and set up a kingdom of his own. The Vis'-i-goths, we must remember, were in Spain, and the Vandals in Africa.

Another race of Teutons called the Franks, or freemen, lived along the east bank of the Rhine. In the year 481 a youthful king named Clo'-vis became their leader. The Franks had always looked with longing eyes across the Rhine upon the cultivated fields and fine cities of Gaul. The merits and generous conduct of Clovis soon led other tribes to join him. Whatever he won in battle was thrown together in one great pile and was divided among his soldiers, the king sharing equally with them.

The Romans still held the province of Northern Gaul, and Clovis decided to drive them out and make it his own kingdom. He led his men against the Roman governor, Sy-a'-gri-us, and defeated him. Syagrius fled and Clovis took possession of Sois'-sons, the capital of the province. Afterwards he moved his court to a village of clay huts on the

Seine, which has grown into the beautiful city of Paris. This part of Gaul became known as France or the land of the Franks. Thus Clovis founded one of the great modern nations of the world.

During this campaign against Syagrius an incident occurred that shows the rough manners of these Frankish tribes and tells us something about the kind of man Clovis was.

Some of his soldiers had carried away from one of the churches at Rheims a beautiful vase, which the bishop entreated Clovis to return as a special favor to him. Accordingly when the spoils were divided Clovis asked his men to set aside the vase for himself.

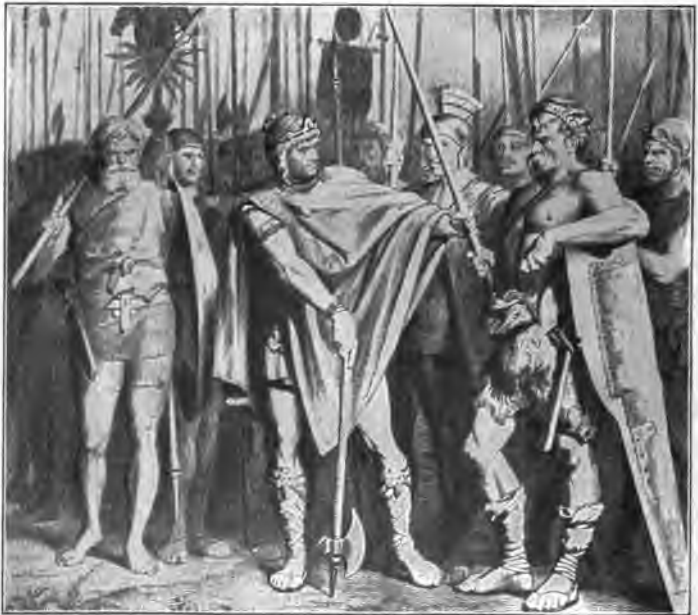
A soldier standing by exclaimed, "Never shall you have more than your just share!" And as he spoke he broke the vase to pieces with a blow of his ax.

Clovis concealed his anger for the time, and said not a word. A year afterwards when he was reviewing his soldiers he approached the one who had insulted him. Taking the man's weapon he threw it upon the ground, chiding him for not keeping it in better condition. As the soldier stooped to pick it up, Clovis shattered his skull with one blow, exclaiming, "Thus didst thou with the vase at Soissons!"

Clovis married Clo-til'-de, niece of Gun'-do-bald, the King of Burgundy. Clotilde was a Chris-

tian, and did all in her power to convert her pagan husband and his people to her own religion.

Clovis was not satisfied with the extent of his new kingdom, and he soon made war on the Al'-e-man-ni, another German tribe living along the



“Thus Didst thou with the Vase at Soissons!”

upper Rhine. It must be remembered that these Germans thought the most honorable way to get anything was to take it by war. It was thought a disgrace to get anything peacefully when it could be obtained by a fair fight.

The Alemanni were stubborn fighters and three times they drove Clovis from the field. Then the king thought of the God that Clotilde had told him about, and he prayed earnestly for victory to Clotilde's God. At the next charge of the Franks they swept the Alemanni from the field.

When Clovis returned home he announced to his people that he had become a Christian. He ordered all heathen gods and temples to be broken down, and on Christmas day he and three thousand of his warriors were baptized by the archbishop in the church at Rheims.

The kings of the house of Clovis are known as the Mer-o-vin'-gi-an kings. This name comes from Mer-o-væ' us, the grandfather of Clovis.

When Clovis died, his kingdom was divided among his four sons. Their descendants continued to rule France for a century. Then in 613 the whole kingdom was united under Clo-taire'. His son, Dag'-o-bert, was a worthless king, and a man named Pip'-in was made mayor of the palace. This mayor was the real king. A descendant of Pipin, known as Pipin the Short, retired the "do-nothing" king to his country place and made himself the founder of a new line of kings called the Car-lo-vin'-gi-an line. The greatest of this line was Char-le-magne' who in 811 became king of all the Franks.



The Baptism of Clovis.

THE BEGINNING OF ENGLAND

IN the Lowlands along the North Sea between the Rhine and the Elbe and on the peninsula of Jutland lived the Sax'-ons, An'-gles, and Jutes. These were German tribes like the Franks and Goths. They became good sailors on account of their situation, and often made voyages to Britain and along the coast of Europe. Like their brother tribes, they lived by war and plunder, and they soon became the terror of the Britons living along the eastern coast.

The Roman army had long protected their British colony against the sea robbers. But in 410 Ho-no'-ri-us, the Roman emperor, called his soldiers away from Britain to guard Italy against invasion. Then the Jutes, the Saxons, and the Angles swarmed over into Britain. Two chiefs of the Jutes named Hengist and Horsa are said to have been the first comers. They soon drove out the Britons and took possession of the larger part of the island. Some of the Britons escaped into Wales and Cornwall, where their descendants continue to live.

The Britons had long before this been converted to Christianity by the Romans, and a Christian king in Wales fought bravely to save his country from the heathen invaders.

This king was Arthur, about whom many tales are told. He is said to have lived in a splendid palace at Car'-le-on in Wales where he gathered about him many brave knights. Twelve of these are known as the "Knights of the Round Table." They were wont to go out in search of adventures, chaining up wicked giants, protecting the helpless, and driving back the heathen.

While Arthur and his knights were warring against the Saxons, a Christian priest, St. Patrick, was converting the wild Irish tribes, baptizing thousands of them. He founded churches and schools, where young men were trained to become missionaries. They were then sent out to teach the faith to the Picts in Scotland and to the Gauls across the English channel.

The Saxons and their brother tribes built up seven kingdoms in Britain. These were united into one by King Egbert of Wessex, who began to reign in 802. Egbert was the first to be called King of England. Long before this the Saxons also had been converted to Christianity. By Saxons we mean all the Germanic tribes in Britain. It is strange that although the greater part of the invaders were Saxons, it was the Angles who gave a name to the new country—*An'-gle-land*, or England.

Pope Gregory the Great, while he was yet a priest, was attracted by the fair faces of some



Saint Patrick Baptizing Irish Princesses.

Angle children who were exposed for sale in one of the slave markets in Rome. They were so beautiful that he said, "They have the faces of *angels*." When he became the head of the church, he sent Aug'-us-tine with forty monks as missionaries to convert the Angles to Christianity. Augustine landed in Kent in 597. Eth'-el-bert was then king of Kent. Like Clovis, he had married a Christian princess, Bertha, the daughter of a Frankish king.

Augustine was welcomed, and in a short time King Ethelbert and a thousand of his men were baptized.

During the next century missionaries visited the other kingdoms of Britain and they too accepted the Christian faith. An old Roman church at Can'-ter-bur-y where Jupiter and Juno were once worshiped was made into a Christian church. It grew to be the Cathedral of Canterbury and Augustine became the first archbishop of Canterbury.

All of these barbarian kingdoms except England soon learned the language, the religion, the laws, and the customs of the Romans whom they had conquered. They forgot their old warlike habits and became industrious and peaceful. The Christian church with its bishops and priests was always on the side of peace and right. It secured freedom for the slave and protection for those

who were oppressed. The old Roman empire had grown wicked and slavish. The coming of the rough, freedom-loving barbarians was the beginning of stronger nations, better morals, and better government.

THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

THE emperors at Constantinople were less troubled by the barbarians than the emperors at Rome. Every German chief and his men had heard of the splendid city of Rome and the beautiful land of Italy. They thought of it as the Valhalla, or heaven, where the successful soldier would be happy forever. The Goth, the Vandal, the Hun, and the Lombard passed carelessly by the roads leading to Constantinople, and each in turn plundered Italy. The last and strongest comer, Theodoric, drove out the others.

It was the Eastern emperor, Ze'-no, who urged Theodoric to attack Italy. In this way Zeno saved his own throne. It was a great relief to him when the great army of Ostrogoths left his territory along the Danube and took up their march westward.

The people in Constantinople cared little for anything except their own comfort. The more learned among them amused themselves with long debates over the hard questions connected with religion. Even in the shops and markets men would come to blows in arguing whether the nature of our Lord was more divine than human, or more human than divine. The great mass of the people amused themselves by attending the races in the

hip'-po-drome. The colors of the favorite drivers were worn in the streets and there were frequent bloody fights between the "blues" and the "greens."

In 521 the greatest of all the Eastern emperors began to reign. This was Jus-tin'-i-an the Great. Justinian was a Gothic peasant lad of the province of Dacia. His uncle, Justin, and two companions, when boys, had left their sheep and cattle, and had traveled on foot to Constantinople. Here they enlisted in the army of the Emperor Leo. When Justinian was sixteen years old reports came to him that his uncle had become chief commander of the emperor's guards. He at once left his mountain home and set out on foot for the capital. Justin received him kindly and placed him in school. The shepherd boy soon surpassed all his fellow-pupils. He grew up to be a tall and fine-looking young man, and was held in respect among the scholars of the great city, which was then the most noted for Greek learning.

By and by the old emperor, An-as-ta'-si-us, died, and his chief general, Justin, was chosen to succeed him. But Justin being in feeble health soon engaged his nephew to help conduct the government. A few months before Justin's death Justinian was crowned emperor.

The poor peasant boy was now to do greater things for his country than any emperor since Con-



At the Court of Justinian.

stantine. He reconquered the provinces that had been taken from the old empire by the barbarians. He finished the beautiful church of St. Sophia and adorned Constantinople with beautiful public buildings. He built many fortresses along the frontiers of his kingdom for its defense. And more important than these things, he made a great collection of the best of the old Roman laws and of the writings of the great emperors, judges, and lawyers. This collection is called the Justinian Code, and it has been the guide of all the modern nations of the world in making their own laws.

Justinian was not a good soldier, but he had at the head of his armies one of the greatest generals that ever lived, Bel-i-sa'-ri-us. Like Justinian he was born a peasant, and had served among the emperor's guards. It would take too long to tell all the battles of Belisarius, but some of them must be mentioned.

The Persians had again grown strong, and had attacked the Asiatic provinces of the empire. In two campaigns Belisarius drove them back. In the last battle the allies of Belisarius fled leaving him with a small number of Roman soldiers. Belisarius dismounted from his horse and stood at their head. With their backs to the Euphrates River they awaited the attack. The Persian cavalry charged again and again but could make no impression on the solid line of pikes and shields. At last the

Romans advanced and drove the Persians from the field in utter rout.

His next campaign was against the Vandals in Africa. Gel'-i-mer was now their king. Belisarius went against him with six hundred ships carrying forty thousand men. In the battle of Carthage he crushed the Vandal king, although the Roman force was only a third as large as that of the enemy.

"I depend more on the valor of my soldiers than on their number," said Belisarius.

Gelimer was taken a prisoner to Constantinople where he was treated kindly by Justinian, who gave him money and a home where he could pass the rest of his life in peace.

Nar'-ses, another able general of Justinian, was scarcely inferior to Belisarius himself. A large army under the command of these two able generals was sent to Italy. Theodoric was dead and the Ostrogothic kingdom was now ruled by Vit'-i-ges. The Roman army was surprised near Rome and only the personal bravery of Belisarius saved it from defeat. The Romans took refuge within the city, where the Goths besieged them.

The Goths built high towers which they filled with warriors. The towers were drawn by oxen toward the walls of the city. But the Romans were expert bowmen. The oxen were all pierced with arrows and killed.

Belisarius himself pierced the Gothic leader with an arrow. Then he led his army out of the city and drove the Goths in defeat toward their capital, Ravenna. The Goths, terrified by the valor and success of the Roman general, surrendered without any further fighting.

Justinian hearing of the brave deeds of his general sent for him to return to Constantinople. He again sent him against the Persians where Belisarius gained another victory.

Belisarius was a mild and just man. He was generous, and the people of Constantinople almost worshiped him as the greatest hero of the age. This made the emperor so jealous that, to his shame be it said, he removed Belisarius from command and took away from him the greater part of his property.

Justinian encouraged trade and manufactures in Constantinople. He introduced the culture of the silkworm and the manufacture of silk. He reigned thirty-eight years and died in 565 at the age of eighty-three, just eight months after the death of Belisarius.

The emperors coming after Justinian were a wicked and worthless lot. We hear of no more brave deeds, but only of vice and crime. We shall learn more about Constantinople during the Crusades and finally we shall read of the taking of that city by the Saracens in 1453.

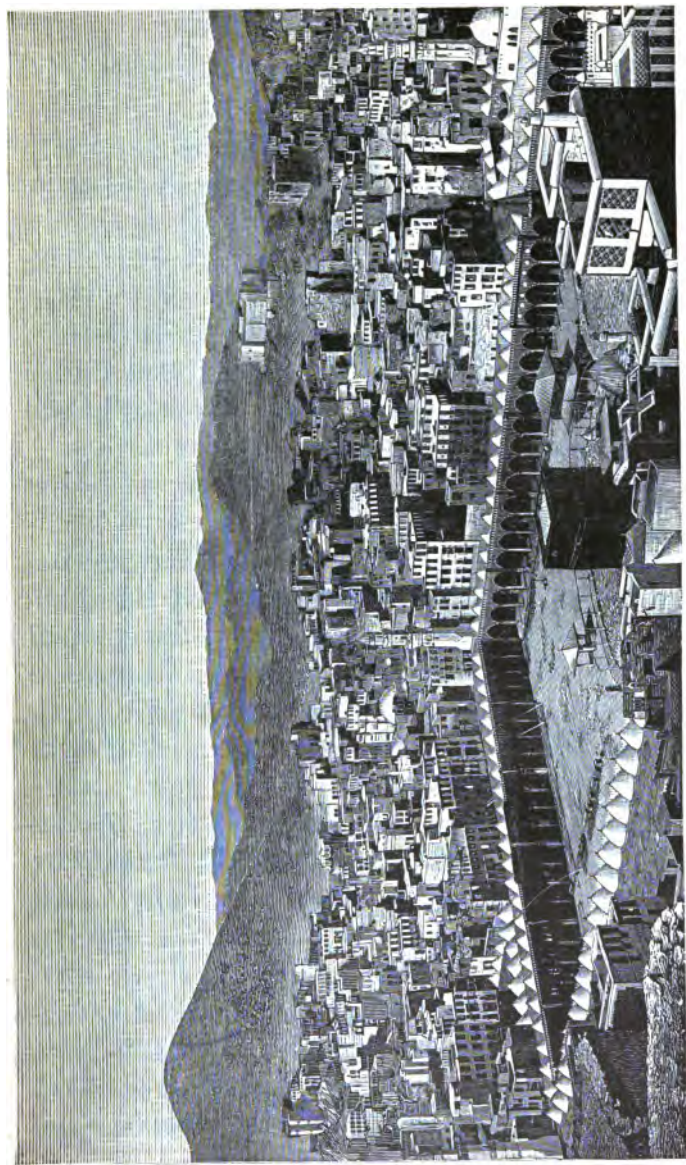
MOHAMMED AND THE SARACENS

THE three religions which have taught the world that there is but one God are the Jewish, the Christian, and the Mohammedan. These religions have all come from that branch of the Semitic race which is descended from Abraham. The wandering Arabs, the tribes of the Arabian desert, claim Ish'-ma-el, the son of Abraham, as their ancestor. Their holy city is Mecca.

In Mecca is the Ca'-a-ba, or holy temple, where a black stone is kept that is believed to have been given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel. Pilgrims from all over Arabia came here to worship and to kiss the sacred stone.

The Arabs were worshipers of the sun, moon, and stars. The level plain and clear sky made them familiar with the motions of these bodies. They found their way across the desert by the stars, and they thought that their own lives were guided by the position and motion of the heavenly bodies.

Mohammed was the founder of Islam, as the Mohammedans call their religion. He was born in Mecca about 570 A.D. His family belonged to the tribe of the Ko'-reish-ites, who had charge of the temple of the Caaba. His parents died when he was a child and he grew up as a shepherd boy,



View of Mecca and the Caaba.

tending the flocks and camels of his uncle, A'-bu Ta'-lib.

Every owner of camels in the East frequently has occasion to join caravans carrying merchandise across the desert. He would receive pay for the use of his camels and for his own services. Mohammed traveled with his uncle to all parts of Arabia as a camel driver. Soon he became himself the leader of a caravan. He became known for his honesty, and merchants frequently intrusted to him valuable goods and large sums of money.

When Mohammed was about twenty-five years old, he was engaged by a widow named Kha-di'-jah to take charge of her caravans. Her husband had been successful in this business, and Khadijah wished to carry it on. Khadijah was so pleased with his skillful management, and he became so fond of his mistress, that they decided to be married. As his wife was rich he did not need to make so many journeys as before.

For fifteen years they lived at Mecca. At the end of this time Mohammed began to think much about religion. He knew about the religion of the Jews and that of the Christians, but he did not exactly like either of them. He liked still less the idol worship of Arabia. Mohammed had always been thoughtful about religion. But now each year during the holy month of Ram-a-dan', he went away to a cave near Mecca and there he spent

the time in fasting and prayer. It was in this cave that the angel Gabriel first appeared to him and taught him the religion that he afterwards taught to his followers.

From time to time the angel came to him, telling him more and more about the new religion. All of this Mohammed remembered carefully and had it written in a book. This book is the Moham-medan Bible. They call it the Koran, a word which like our word Bible means book. The most important teaching of the Koran is this: "There is only one God and Mohammed is his prophet."

He first taught his religion to his own family, and they became his first converts. But when he began to preach in the streets of Mecca, the crowd called him a fool and thought he was not right in his mind.

At last the chiefs of the Koreishites threatened to kill him if he did not keep silent. They were the guardians of the Caaba; and Mohammed, by condemning their worship of idols and men, of sun and stars, made the care of the temple less profitable. He was at last obliged to flee from Mecca at night, and he escaped death only by hiding in a cave while his nephew put on the clothes and lay down on the couch of the prophet. This made the pursuers think that Mohammed was still at his home.

A story tells us that the spiders spun their webs



Mohammed Preaching to the Wild Arab Tribes of the Desert.

across the entrance of the cave, and that the doves built nests in front of it to deceive the angry chiefs, who sought the prophet's life.

The flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina took place in 622. This is the event from which all Mohammedans reckon time, just as we reckon the years from the birth of Christ. The Arabic word for this event is Heg'-i-ra, or flight. Since 622 was the first year of the flight, 1907 would be 1285 in the Arabic reckoning.

Mohammed had many followers in Medina, and a mosque, or place of prayer, was soon built and the prophet taught the people a form of worship. One God only must be worshiped five times each day with the face turned toward Mecca. A part of one's goods must be given each year to the poor, and the yearly fast in the month Ramadan must be kept. Every good Mohammedan must also make once in his life a pilgrimage to Mecca. All this was not taught at once, however.

Soon after coming to Medina the prophet said that the angel Gabriel had told him that Islam must be forced upon the whole world. All heathen nations must accept the new religion or be put to the sword. Jews and Christians must become Mohammedans or pay tribute to the prophet.

Mohammed soon had an army at his command. He attacked and defeated a caravan of the Koreishites, and finally captured the city of Mecca

itself. He broke all the idols of the Caaba, shouting as each one fell, " Truth has come and falsehood gone forever! "

He continued his conquests until all Arabia was converted. Hearing that the Greek emperor, Her-a'-cli-us, was preparing to attack him, he made ready an expedition against him. In the midst of this he died in the year 632.

Mohammed's father-in-law, A'-bu Bek'-er, was chosen caliph, or successor, to the prophet. Under O'-mar, the next caliph, Persia, Palestine, and Syria were conquered and made to accept the new religion. Egypt was next added to the rapidly growing Mohammedan Empire. When Al-ex-an'-dri-a was taken, a Moslem leader inquired of Omar what should be done with the books in the famous library there.

" If these books agree with the Koran, they are not needed; if they disagree with it they should be destroyed," said Omar.

The seven hundred thousand rolls of parchment which the library was thought to contain were distributed among the public baths of the city and used for fuel.

In 710 the conquest of Africa was finished and the leader Ta'-rik crossed into Spain. In 711 in one great battle he destroyed the Visigothic kingdom there. When Spain was secured, a great army crossed the Pyrenees into Gaul. Here the

Mohammedans were met by Charles Martel with an army of Franks. At Tours in 732, a battle was fought that saved Christian Europe from destruction. The Mohammedan cavalry rode again and again upon the Frankish infantry, but were beaten back as if from a wall of iron. All day the battle lasted. Toward evening a charge was made by the Franks and the Moslem leader, Abd-er-Rah'man was killed. During the night the enemy retreated, and they never appeared in France again. It was decided by the battle of Tours that Christians and not Moslems should rule Europe.

Charles was the son of that Pipin who was the mayor of the palace in the time of the do-nothing Merovingian kings. From the stout blows which he dealt the Mohammedans with his battle ax, he got the surname Martel, or the Hammer. He became the hero of Europe, for he had saved it from becoming subject to a false religion.

Some time before this the capital of the Mohammedan Empire had been fixed at Bag'-dad on the Tigris River. This city became the most beautiful in the world. Five bridges spanned the river, and six hundred canals ran through the city. There were a thousand mosques and as many temples. All the wealth obtained by conquest was spent here. The palace of the caliph was equal to the golden house of Nero or the cedar house of Solomon.

The empire became so large that a second capital was set up at Cor-do'-va in Spain, where the caliph of the West ruled.



Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours.

From 768 to 809 there ruled at Bagdad the most noted of all the caliphs. This was Ha-roun'-

al-Ra'-shid (Aaron the Just). The wonderful tales of the Arabian Nights are stories of Bagdad in the good days of Haroun.

When Haroun was a young man he became a general in the army. He defeated the army of the Empress Irene of Constantinople and compelled her to send to Bagdad every year seventy thousand pieces of gold. This money was paid regularly for many years; but when Ni-ceph'-o-rus came to the throne he sent this letter to Haroun:

"The weak and faint-hearted Irene agreed to pay tribute to you when she should have made you pay tribute to her. Now, pay back to me all the gold she sent you or else we will settle with the sword."

When Haroun had read the letter the messenger of Nicephorus threw down before him a bundle of swords.

"Then," the story goes, "the caliph drew his keen scimiter and with a stroke cut in two the Roman swords without dulling the edge of the weapon."

Then he wrote a letter to Nicephorus. This is what it said:

"Haroun-al-Raschid, Commander of the Faithful, to Nicephorus the Roman dog: I have read thy letter. Thou shalt not hear, thou shalt *see* my reply."

The army which he sent utterly routed the Ro-



Haroun-al-Rashid.

mans. The emperor promised to pay the tribute again. He did not keep his promise, and Haroun prepared again to punish him. But he died before his army was ready to march. It was left for the Turks, a Tartar tribe which had been converted to Mohammedanism, to take the city of Constantinople.

THE EMPIRE OF CHARLEMAGNE

PIPIN THE SHORT, who set aside the last Merovingian king and made himself king of Frankland, had two sons, Charles and Carloman. As Carloman lived only a short time Charles became king. He ruled from 768 to 814. In after times he was called Charlemagne (Shar-le-mane'), the French form of Karl the Great.

We must remember that in his time there was yet no France and no French people. Charlemagne was a German and spoke the German language. The Franks, too, were Germans, who had settled among the Gauls and Romans. The French people and language came from the mixing of these three races and languages.

On the east of the Rhine, where there were no Gauls or Romans, a pure German race lived, and their country is now called Germany.

Why was this king called the Great? Only a few kings have received this title, and there is always some good reason for it.

In the first place, Charlemagne was of great size and stature. He was seven feet high, broad in shoulders and chest, and of immense strength. He was fond of hunting, riding, and swimming.

He shrank from no toil and feared no danger. He was a successful general; he fought fifty-two

military campaigns and never met defeat. He enlarged his empire so that it took in all of western Europe except Spain, and he was crowned by the Pope as Roman emperor.

Besides knowing how to win battles, he knew how to govern his empire. He divided it into districts; at the head of each district he placed a count, who could be removed if he did not manage well.

Twice each year he called together all the chiefs and the people to take part in the making of laws. Every Frank felt that he was a part of the great empire, and that he was helping to govern it. After the laws were made, judges were chosen and sent to all parts of the kingdom to hold courts and enforce the laws.

Charlemagne was the first barbarian king to establish schools. In his own palace at Aa'-chen (Aix) he had a school for his own children. He brought a learned Englishman named Al'-cuin from the school of York in England to direct the teaching in his schools.

He himself never learned to read and write until he became a king. But then he saw the need of it and studied so diligently that he learned to speak in Latin and to read Greek.

These languages were the most important then because all the books were written in them. Charlemagne cared little for eating and drinking, and usually read a book while he ate. He was prompt



Charlemagne.

in all his actions, never lost time, and in this way he had time enough left for recreation when his work was done.

His first war was against the Lom'-bards in Italy. The Lombards were a German tribe who had been invited into Italy by Narses, the general of Justinian.

After the Gothic kingdom of Theodoric was destroyed, the Lombard kingdom became the chief power in northern and central Italy. As the Lombards were Greek Christians they were not friendly to the Roman Pope, and they soon began to threaten Rome.

It was at this time that Pipin made himself king of the Franks. As he wanted to be crowned by the Pope, he was invited to help Rome against the Lombards. Pipin marched his army into Italy, took from the Lombard king a large part of his territory, and gave it to Pope Stephen III. In return for this, the Pope solemnly crowned him king.

In the time of Charlemagne another quarrel came up with the Lombards. He had married the daughter of Des-i-de'-ri-us, the Lombard king, and afterwards divorced her and sent her home to her father. Desiderius was so angry at this that he called upon Pope Ha'-dri-an to make the son of Carloman king instead of Charlemagne.

The Frank king promptly led his army across



The Crowning of Charlemagne.

the Alps, took Desiderius prisoner and shut him up in a convent. He then put the iron crown of the Lombard upon his own head and declared himself lord of all Italy.

On account of the crimes of the Empress Irene at Constantinople, who had blinded her own son that she might rule, the Italians declared themselves independent of her. The Eastern emperors had gone on calling themselves Roman emperors ever since the time of Constantine, although they had no power at Rome.

The Greek and Roman churches had come to think differently about religion. A great dispute about the use of images came up in the eighth century. In the East the mosaics and pictures were taken out of the churches and destroyed, the priests claiming that the people worshiped these things as idols. But the Roman Church held that it was right to adorn the house of worship with the statues and pictures of the Saviour, the Virgin, and the saints.

The Pope thought that there should be an emperor in the West who agreed with the Roman Church. Accordingly, on Christmas Day, 800, in the Church of St. Peter, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne Roman emperor. As the golden crown was placed upon his head, all the people shouted, "Long live Charles Augustus, Emperor of the Romans!"

After this, the eastern half of the old Roman Empire may be called the Greek Empire. The language spoken there was Greek, while in the west only Latin was spoken.

Many years before this, while Charlemagne was warring against the fierce Saxons, a Saracen chief came to him from Spain. He said that he could not endure the harsh government of the Moham-medan Caliph of Cordova. If Charlemagne would send an army to help him to become independent of the caliph, he would give him land and cities south of the Pyrenees.

The king accepted the offer and led a large army into Spain. He conquered a number of Moorish cities, and then finding that the chief he had come to help did not support him, he turned back toward France. The main body of the army had passed the mountains in safety. But the rear guard was fiercely attacked in the narrow mountain pass of Roncesvalles (Ron-thes-val'-yes) by the native tribes and some treacherous Moors.

The enemy covered the mountain tops and rolled down rocks and trees upon the Franks. They got possession of both ends of the pass and attacked Roland, who commanded the rear guard, in front and rear. Before Charlemagne could come to his assistance, Roland and his men were cut to pieces.

The stories say that he took terrible revenge upon the Moors, but the brave Roland was gone.



Roland in the Pass of Roncevalles.

An old French poem, the "Song of Roland," says that Roland had an enchanted horn that could be heard at any distance. When he saw that he was cut off by the Basques and Moors, he blew twice upon his horn. Charlemagne heard and would have turned back, but the traitor, Ga'-ne-lon, an enemy of Roland, persuaded the king that Roland was only hunting the deer.

Again and again the hero wound the horn until the veins of his neck burst with the violence of the blast. Then at last Charlemagne turned back to help him.

But Roland had scarcely fifty men left to fight an army. He was mortally wounded and by a great effort dragged his dying limbs out of the fight to the foot of a hill. Here, having sung his death song, he threw his enchanted sword, Du-ran'-del, into a poisoned stream, where it still remains, and died.

The war against the Saxons was the most stubborn in which Charlemagne engaged. These fierce people lived on the eastern bank of the lower Rhine. They were still worshipers of Thor and Woden, and they hated the Franks because they had become Christians.

It took eighteen campaigns and thirty years of warfare to conquer them. Many times they seemed to be subdued but then the war broke out afresh.

Charlemagne insisted on making Christians of

them, and baptized many at the point of the sword. Once he massacred forty-five hundred of them for breaking a treaty. At last he gave up trying to conquer them and offered to make peace, if their heroic leader, Wit'-te-kind, would consent to be baptized.

After his baptism many of the Saxons became Christians. Their name still remains in the kingdom of Saxony, one of the German states.

The fame of Charlemagne spread throughout the world. The great Caliph of Bagdad, Haroun-al-Raschid, sent an embassy to ask for his friendship. The caliph sent as presents an elephant and a clock of curious construction. It had twelve doors which opened and allowed twelve little knights to come out and strike the hours. The clock and the elephant were a source of great wonder to the Franks.

The emperor built a splendid cathedral at Aachen, his capital. There he was buried, under the floor and beneath the dome of the church. His body was placed sitting in a marble chair, dressed in his royal robes and crown. His horn, and a copy of the Gospels were upon his lap and his sword by his side. The marble chair may still be seen in the cathedral at Aix, but the other relics were taken to Vienna by later emperors.

His son Louis was a weak ruler and had a troubled reign. He divided the kingdom among



The Baptism of Wittekind.

his three sons. Louis received the eastern, or German part, Charles the western part, and Lothair, Italy, with a long strip of land running north between the other two. This was the beginning of the modern countries, France, Germany, and Italy.

THE NORTHMEN

THE Teutonic tribes living on the northern shores of Europe, in Denmark, and in Norway and Sweden are known in history as Northmen.

Just as their brother tribes in Central Europe invaded and conquered the Roman Empire in the fifth century, so *they* invaded and conquered parts of the older Christian countries in the ninth and tenth centuries.

But the Northmen, living along the bays and inlets of the coast, became expert sailors and ship-builders, and their raids and invasions were made by sea. Like the Franks and Goths they were strong and warlike, and despised getting anything by labor which they could get by plunder.

Their ships were long and narrow. There was one mast in the center which carried a large square sail. Along the sides there were benches for twenty or more rowers. Their weapons and food were packed snugly away in the bottom of the boat—in the bow and stern and under the benches.

In these boats they made long voyages. Setting out from Denmark or Norway, they would cross over to England and to the coast of France, and even to Iceland, Greenland, and America. They would frequently sail up a river until they came to a rich city or town. They would then land



Northmen Invading the Coast of Britain.

their warriors and plunder the place, carrying off all the valuable things they could find. Then they would sail away before enough force could be got together to catch them.

At first their raids were made in the summer. When winter came they would all go away to their homes along the fiords and harbors of Norway. But toward the end of the ninth century they began to make settlements along the coasts that they plundered.

The eastern coast of England and the northern coast of France were most exposed to their attacks.

In 787 three shiploads of Danes landed on the English coast. When the sheriff of the place went to inquire who they were they slew him. This was the first appearance of the Danes in England. But afterwards they came more and more. As they were heathen and hated the Christians, they liked to plunder and burn the churches. Many valuable things were placed in the churches in those times for safe-keeping. This was soon discovered by the Danes and they took delight in killing the priests and carrying off the treasures.

The whole eastern coast of England soon came under their control. King Alfred fought long wars with the Danes and at last defeated them severely in the battle of Ed'-ding-ton. He also destroyed their fleet.

Alfred the Great was the most famous of Eng-

lish kings and noted for his wisdom and love of learning as well as for his bravery and skill in battle. He was the first English king who learned to read.

A Welsh friend of Alfred tells us this story:

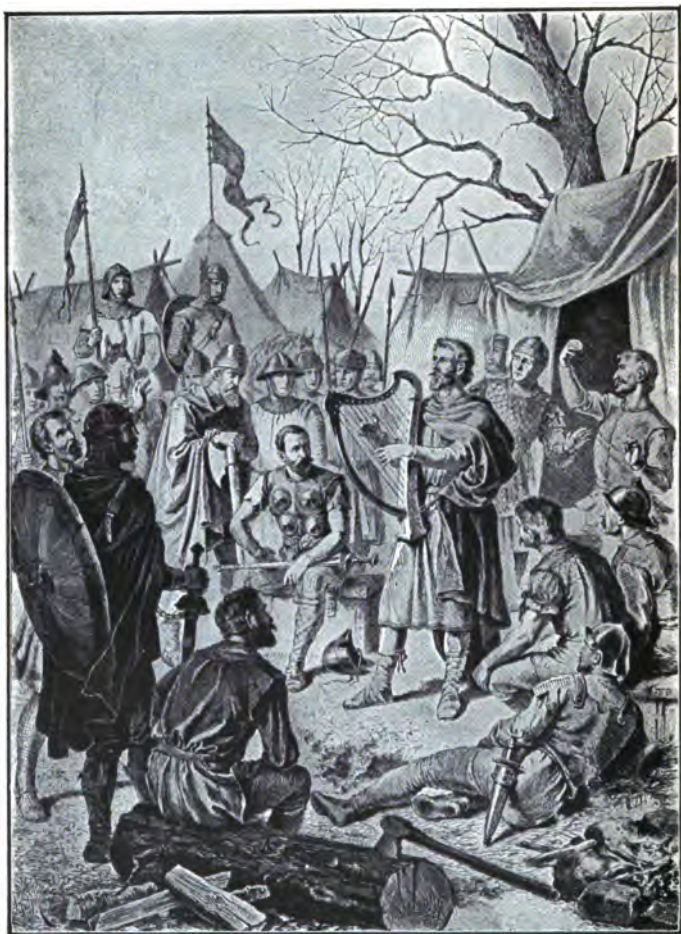
One day Alfred's mother was showing her sons a poem beautifully written in colors on parchment, and said, "I will give this to the one of you who shall first learn to read it."

Alfred found a teacher at once and soon learned to read. After that he gave all his spare time to improving his mind.

During the wars with Guth'-rum, a Danish king who had invaded England, Alfred disguised himself as a minstrel and went into the Danish camp. Here he amused Guthrum by singing and playing on the harp. At the same time he found out all about the situation of his camp and the best way to attack it.

He soon forced the Danish leader to make peace. Guthrum and thirty of his leading men became Christians and were baptized. Alfred then divided the land with them giving them the eastern half of England north of the Thames River. In the reign of Ethelred the Unready, the Danes began to come in greater numbers than ever. The king gave them great sums of money to go away. They took the money and were ever demanding more and more.

At last in 1002 Ethelred ordered a general massacre of the Danes all over England. Thousands



Alfred in the Camp of Guthrum.

were killed and among them was Gunhilda, the sister of King Sweyn of Denmark. Sweyn vowed vengeance on the English king. He came with a large army to England and drove Ethelred out and made himself king of England. In 1016 Canute, his son, succeeded him. He was a good king and made excellent laws for England. He was a Christian and forbade the worship of the old gods. He forbade slavery also, and punished criminals, the strong as well as the weak.

In 1042 the Danish line of kings died out and Edward the Confessor, the son of Ethelred, was restored to his throne.

While these things were going on in England, the Northmen were making conquests also in the north of France. The Vikings, as they were called, sailed up the large rivers into the very heart of the country. Once they stabled their horses in the great church that Charlemagne built at Aachen.

Rollo was a noted leader in the attacks on France. He was called Rolf the Ganger, or goer, on account of his long legs. In 885 Rolf came sailing up the Seine with thirty thousand men and seven hundred ships, and laid siege to the city of Paris. The city stood on an island, and was connected with the mainland by two bridges. These bridges were defended by two high and strong towers. The Northmen after staying for eighteen months gave up the task and retreated.

In 911 Rolf and his Northmen came again. They were routed in one battle, but King Charles saw that they were too strong to be driven out. He then did what Alfred had done in England. He gave them two provinces in the northern part of France. Rolf received a French princess for his wife and became the vassal of the French king.

When Rolf was told that he must kiss the king's foot as a sign of faithfulness, he scornfully refused. When the French said that that part of the ceremony could not be left out, the chief told one of his men to kiss the king's foot for him. The soldier knelt before the king and lifted up his foot so high to kiss it that Charles rolled off his seat. The Northmen burst into laughter at his ridiculous appearance.

The land given to Rolf became known as the duchy of Normandy, and the Northmen were called Normans. Although Rolf had been a pirate and a plunderer himself, he would not allow any lawlessness in his new duchy. He made strict laws, and robbery was punished by hanging. Normandy became the best governed part of France.

The new duke divided the land among his chiefs. They in turn gave part of their land to their *men*, that is, the soldiers who fought with them, and kept the rest for themselves. Each man who thus received land of a chief had to give him part of the grain and fruit that he raised. He also

had to do a certain number of days' work for his lord each year and fight for him in case of war. Any man who received lands from another became a vassal and he must take the oath of fealty, or faithfulness, to his lord.

The land thus received was called a fief or feud, and this system of landholding was called the feudal system.

The vassal was a freeman. But the great mass of the people were serfs. Some were slaves that could be bought and sold. The serfs could not be sold but were obliged to live always upon the estate of their lord. They could not get any pay for their labor and when the land changed hands the serfs went with it.

Wherever the Northmen went, they learned the language and accepted the religion of the land in which they lived. In France they became Frenchmen, in England they became Englishmen.

One of the descendants of Duke Rollo was William I, the conqueror and King of England.

In Russia also a band of Northmen under a chief named Rurik set up a government with Nov'-go-rod as his capital. This was the beginning of the Russian Empire. Under King Vlad'-i-mir they were converted to Christianity and became Russians just as Rollo and his men became French.

Wherever the Northmen were found, they were skillful in both war and government.

THE NORMAN CONQUEST OF ENGLAND

WHEN the Danes drove King Ethelred from his throne in England, he fled to Normandy. His wife was Emma, the great-granddaughter of the first duke, Rollo. His son Edward, called the Confessor, on account of his piety, grew up at the Norman court.

When Edward was restored to his father's kingdom he took along many Norman friends to whom he gave good places as officers in the English government. This was very displeasing to the English nobles, especially to the Earl Godwin, who was the most powerful among them. After a time Godwin drove the Norman families back to Normandy.

Edward married Edith, the daughter of Godwin, but they had no children. After Edward's death, therefore, the English people chose Harold, the son of Godwin, to rule over them.

Duke William of Normandy now laid claim to the English throne. He said that Edward had agreed to leave it to him.

Once Harold had been shipwrecked on the Norman coast and found his way to the court of William. Before William would allow him to return to England, he made him lay his hand upon an

altar and swear that when Edward died, he would support William's claim to the throne.

The top of the altar was then removed and Harold was shown that his hand had rested just above the bones of certain holy men, or saints. To swear upon the bones of the saints was considered the most solemn kind of oath, and anyone who broke it would be treated as an outlaw.

William now sent a message to Harold reminding him of his oath.

But Harold replied that he had been chosen king by the people of England and that he would stand up for his rights.

William now made preparation to invade England. For eight months Normandy was a busy workshop. Bows and arrows, swords and spears, helmets and armor, were made ready. Along the coast hundreds of ships were fitted out and stored with provisions.

William had asked the Pope for consent to conquer England. It was given and the Pope sent also a beautiful flag, that he had blessed, to be carried at the head of the Norman Army.

At last everything was ready and the Normans crossed the English Channel and landed on the English coast near Hastings. As William went ashore he stumbled and nearly fell. Some men near him exclaimed that it was a bad sign. But the duke showed them the earth which he had in his

hand saying, "It is a sign that I am taking possession of England."

The Normans found no one to oppose them, for King Harold was away in the North fighting an army led by the King of Norway, who had invaded England. At Stamford Bridge Harold's army nearly destroyed the Norwegians and the English rebels who were with them. The English were celebrating the victory at a banquet, when news came from the South that Duke William had landed in England.

Harold hastened to meet him, gathering men as he advanced. He placed his army on a hill near William's camp, and fortified it by driving stakes into the ground around it.

Here the Normans made several attacks, but were driven back. At last the English soldiers came out of their defenses to attack the retreating Normans and were slain. Then William made a fierce attack on the king's standard, around which the best of the English soldiers were gathered. The king was wounded, the standard taken, and the battle of Hastings was won. This battle made Duke William of Normandy King William of England.

The new king soon had orderly government established. Those English who refused to accept his rule were harshly treated and lost all their estates; but those who submitted were kindly treated.



Harold Receiving the News of the Norman Invasion of
England.

The feudal system was set up in England. All land belonged to the king. It was divided among the barons who came with him, and they in turn divided their shares among their men. The smallest division of land was called a knight's fee, because anyone holding this amount of land must furnish one knight to fight for the king. There were sixty thousand knights' fees in England. When the king needed an army, he called upon his barons to come with a number of soldiers according to the land they held. The barons called upon their men and an army was soon assembled.

Three times each year William called together all the men in England that held land of him, to make laws and advise him about the state of the kingdom. It is said: "He made such good peace in the land that a man might travel all over England with his bosom full of gold without molestation."

For a long time there were two nations, two languages, and two kinds of law in England. But just as the Northmen became Frenchmen in France, the Norman-French became Englishmen in England. It required nearly two hundred years to blend the two nations into one. But King John lost the province of Normandy, and from that time the Norman conquerors became more and more English.

The feudal system continued a long time in

England, but it was finally abolished, and every man became the owner of the land that he had once held of the king.

There were two bad things about this system that caused it to be set aside. One was that it made the barons too strong. Sometimes one baron would have at his command several hundred knights. With such a force he could defy the king. Many barons set up an independent rule of their own. Some became highwaymen and robbed merchants and plundered the people. Often a quarrel would arise between two barons and then they would carry on war until one was conquered.

All of this made the country unsafe to travel in or even to live in. The only way to be safe was to become the vassal of some powerful noble who made it a point of honor to stand by his men.

Every baron lived in a strong house built of stone which we call a feudal castle. This castle was a huge structure. It contained great courts and dining halls large enough to accommodate hundreds of men. There were stables for horses and storehouses for food and supplies of war. Outside was a deep moat, or ditch, filled with water. This made it possible for a baron to gather all his men within the castle and to remain there for a long time if he was besieged.

His men could gather on the high walls and towers and throw down stones and weapons upon



Knights Attacking a Feudal Castle.

the besiegers. The only way to take a castle was to batter a hole through the walls, or to build up high towers alongside of them. Then a bridge could be made from the tower to the wall of the castle. But with brave defenders inside, the baron could usually bid defiance to any foe.

The feudal system was a bad thing for the king, the people, the merchants, and for all the weak and unprotected. It made the king too weak to protect his people. It made the people the slaves of the nobles. The man who was not protected by some lord might be killed as an outlaw. The merchants had to travel in large companies with armed men to protect them.

After the death of Charlemagne and the division of his empire, there were no more strong and able kings to keep the nobles in order. The result was that each noble built a strong castle and became partly independent. In this way the feudal system spread over Europe. After a time it came about that the people joined with the kings to put down the nobles.

A witty writer said that the king was the cat, the nobles were the rats, and the people were the mice. Both cats and rats eat mice, but there was only one cat while there were many rats. So it was prudent for the mice to help the cat to kill off the rats, even if the cat ate a few of them.

The merchants and mechanics lived mainly in

cities. Soon the cities grew strong and rich enough to purchase their independence of the noble in whose province they stood. The noble was always in need of money for his wars, and the city would furnish the money in return for the privilege of governing itself.

When gunpowder came into use the power of the nobles was soon broken down. A musket ball could pierce their armor and a cannon could batter down their castles. A few pieces of cannon, with the help of the people and the free cities, made the kings strong again; and in place of the feudal system, Europe became divided into monarchies ruled by powerful kings.

But now before we go further we must turn back and learn something about chivalry, the Crusades, and about the various countries of Europe during the Middle Ages.

KNIGHTHOOD AND CHIVALRY

WE can best learn the meaning of knighthood and chivalry by reading the deeds of famous knights, like The Cid, Roland, Bayard, Richard the Lion-hearted, and the Black Prince. We still speak of chivalrous deeds, and knightly courtesy although knights and chivalry have long since passed away.

The true knight was pious and charitable as well as brave. Then he felt that God would aid him. He could say like Sir Galahad, one of King Arthur's knights:

“My good blade carves the casques of men,
My tough lance thrusteth sure ;
My strength is as the strength of ten
Because my heart is pure.”

That was a true knightly act of Sir Philip Sidney: when dying on the battlefield, a cup of water was brought to him. But seeing a fellow-soldier near him suffering from many wounds, he said to him, “Take it, thy necessity is greater than mine.”

Knighthood and chivalry grew out of feudalism, or the feudal system. Since war was the chief business in those days, it was necessary to have trained soldiers. The labor was all done by serfs

and slaves. The nobility scorned to follow any occupation except that of arms.

The training of a knight began at the age of seven years. The boys of noble birth were placed in the care of some noble lord. They grew up at his castle, and were trained in the rules of courtesy and war, and in the exercises and duties of a knight.

The boy was called a page until the age of fourteen. The duties of a page were to carry messages, to wait upon the ladies, and to learn the rules of feudal service.

At the age of fourteen the page became a squire. Then he learned to manage a horse. He attended his lord on the battlefield, carried his weapons, and aided him if he was wounded. If he had proved a brave and faithful squire, he might, at the age of twenty-one, be made a knight. He must take a vow to defend religion, to protect ladies and all people in distress, and to be a faithful member of the chivalry, as the whole body of knights was called.

Then he received his weapons, his golden spurs were buckled on, and the lord, striking him on the shoulder with the flat of his sword, said: "In the name of God, of St. Michael, and of St. George, I dub thee knight; be brave, bold, and loyal."

It often happened that a squire would be made a knight on the field of battle for some daring act.

The young knight was ambitious to make himself famous by doing some brave deed. When the Crusades began, he would go to fight the infidels, as the Saracens were called. If he heard of some lady in distress he would become her champion and



The Tournament.

fight in single combat with the man who had injured her.

Often a king or some rich lord would hold a tournament. This was a favorite amusement in the days of chivalry. It was in the tournament that the knight hoped to win a name for himself.

A tournament was held in a large field that had been leveled and inclosed. This was called the lists.

Around the lists seats were built for the nobles and ladies who thronged to see the sports.

One kind of combat was a mock battle between two companies of knights, perhaps fifty or more on a side. The knights arranged themselves at each end of the lists armed with blunted weapons and shields. Horses as well as men were dressed in armor.

At the blast of a trumpet the heralds shouted, "Let them go!"

Then the two companies rode at full speed toward each other and met in the center with a terrible shock.

The shattering trumpet shrilleth high,
The hard brands shiver on the steel,
The splintered spear shafts crack and fly,
The horse and rider reel.
They reel, they roll in clanging lists,
And when the tide of combat stands,
Perfume and flowers fall in showers
That lightly rain from ladies' hands.

The combat lasted until all the knights on one side were unhorsed. The victors received prizes from the hands of the lady elected to preside over the tournament. She was called the Queen of Love and Beauty, and every knight was eager to win her favor.

It was a common thing for knights to be killed

or wounded in the tournament, and often instead of sport it became a bloody battle in which many lives were lost.

Any knight who wished to fight in single combat might hang up his shield in the lists. Whoever touched the shield with his lance would meet the challenger in the lists. The victor might meet another knight and so on. The final victor was proclaimed as the champion of the tournament.

During the Crusades and other wars against the Mohammedans, the knights had plenty of enemies to fight. In Spain where the Moslem had control for nearly eight hundred years, many wars were waged. The greatest of Spanish knights was Rod-ri'-go the Cam-pe-a-dor', or Champion. The Saracens called him the Cid, a word meaning Lord. It would take a long time to tell all of his adventures.

A company of young knights were once riding along when they saw a poor leper by the roadside. One of the company took the leper on his horse and carried him to the inn and gave him supper and a bed for the night. At midnight the leper arose, breathed upon the young knight, and vanished. The knight awoke and searched for the leper in vain. Then a man in shining garments appeared to him and said, "Rodrigo, I am St. Lazarus, the leper whom you befriended. For this and because I have breathed upon thee, thou shalt



A Tilt in the Lists.

win renown, and whatever thou doest shall bring thee fame and honor."

The Cid once fought as champion for his king, Fernando of Castile, and won the combat against the bravest knight of Spain. This gave him a great name.

The king once became angry with the Cid and banished him from his kingdom. As Rodrigo needed money he sent two chests of sand to some money lenders and told them they contained valuable jewels. He wished to borrow a sum of money on them, but it must be agreed that the chests should not be opened for a year. He received the loan and equipped three hundred knights to fight the Moors. He took some of their cities and terrified them by his marvelous deeds.

Afterwards the king allowed him to return home. Together they took the Moorish town of Va-len'-cia and the Cid became its ruler. A Moorish army, sent to retake the place, was defeated with terrible loss.

The Cid won his greatest victory after his death. A Spanish tale says that St. Peter in a vision told him that this would happen. So his body was embalmed and clad in complete armor. It was then placed upon Bab-i-e'-ca, his war horse, and a guard of a thousand knights led the steed out of the gates of Valencia. A Moorish king lay encamped with a great army before the city. Sud-

denly it seemed to them that a great host of warriors in snowy garments were coming against them. The Moors fled in terror to the sea, and in their haste to reach the ships in which they had come, twenty thousand of them were drowned.

Some famous tales of knightly adventure are those of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table. Arthur was the British king of whom we have read, who fought bravely against the Saxons that invaded his country. With twelve of his bravest knights he was accustomed to sit at a round table and plan out expeditions against the heathen. Sir Galahad was the purest and the best of these knights. He set out in search of the Holy Grail. This was the cup of which Christ drank at the last supper with His disciples. It was said to have been brought to England, but it had disappeared on account of the sin of the keeper who had charge of it.

Many knights spent their lives in searching for it. But if anyone approached it who was not pure in thought, word, and deed it disappeared. Sir Galahad succeeded in finding it.

In the fifteenth century knighthood and chivalry came to an end. The change in the method of fighting helped to bring this about. Then so many silly tales were told of the adventures of knights, about their fighting with giants, wizards, dragons, and goblins, that it all became ridiculous.

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A Spaniard named Cer-van'-tes wrote a humorous tale of Don Quixote, a knight who became crazy from reading books on chivalry. He went out in search of adventures and fought with windmills thinking them to be giants. He thought the village inn a noble castle, and said that his ladylove, Dul-cin'-e-a, was somewhere kept in prison by a wicked baron.

Knights came to be regarded as we regard the boy who runs away from home to fight Indians. We may say that Cervantes's story helped to laugh the knight and his deeds out of existence.

But the knight did much to make life better during the rough times of the Middle Ages. He helped to save the oppressed and to give justice to the weak. So let us say of him:

His bones are dust,
His good sword rust,
His soul is with the saints we trust.

THE CRUSADES

WE have read how the followers of Mohammed overran all Western Asia and compelled the inhabitants to accept their religion. Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and all the places associated with the life of Christ fell into their hands.

Among the early Christians it was thought to be a very pious act to make a pilgrimage, or journey, to some sacred place. The tomb of some saint, like that of St. Thomas at Canterbury in England, might be the place. But a visit to the birthplace of the Saviour at Bethlehem or to His tomb at Jerusalem, was thought to bring upon the pilgrims the choicest blessing of heaven.

The Saracen caliphs at Bagdad ruled over Palestine and the holy places. Haroun-al-Raschid was one of these caliphs. They were usually intelligent and liberal men, and were willing that the Christian pilgrims from Europe should be allowed to visit Palestine. They even encouraged such pilgrims and treated them courteously for the pilgrims brought considerable money into the country.

But in the wars of the caliphs, a Tartar tribe living near the Caspian Sea was converted to the faith. These were the Turks. They soon became stronger than the caliphs, and took away almost all their possessions. The Turks were ignorant

and barbarous. They called the Christian pilgrims dogs and unbelievers, and seized and plundered them. They even tortured, insulted, and killed many. The holy church at Jerusalem was made into a stable and the other holy places were treated with like contempt.

When stories of these insults were brought back to Europe, it made the Christians very angry. The Pope and the priests began to urge the kings and nobles to take revenge upon the infidel Turks.

You may imagine how the Christian knight was affected by this oppression. He had taken a vow to aid the persecuted and the helpless, and to be a champion in the cause of religion. What could please his chivalrous nature more than to go to the Holy Land to fight the heathen and protect the pilgrims?

The father of the first Crusade, or War of the Cross, was Peter the Hermit, a monk of Am'i-ens, France. A council of the church was held at Clermont in France to consider what should be done. Pope Urban made a speech to a great throng of people telling them of the wrongs suffered at the hands of the Turks.

“When Christ calls you to defend Him,” cried the Pope, “let nothing keep you at home. Whoever shall leave his house, his father, or his mother, his wife, or his children in the name of Christ, shall

be rewarded a hundredfold, and shall have eternal life."

The vast assembly rose up in their enthusiasm and shouted: "It is the will of God! It is the will of God!" Those who were willing to join in a war against the Turks placed crosses upon the breast or shoulder.

Peter was at the council and immediately afterwards he set out on a journey through Europe preaching with great earnestness to enormous crowds of people. Everywhere he was welcomed, and thousands of men in every land took the cross. Finally a day was set when the expedition should start for Constantinople. From that place they were to cross into Asia Minor, and march through Syria to Jerusalem.

Peter himself led an advanced guard of eighty thousand men, women, and children through Europe. But they had made no arrangement for food or shelter. On the way through Hungary they compelled the people to feed them. The Hungarians attacked and killed many of them. Hunger and cold killed more. Not more than seven thousand crossed the Bosphorus into Asia, and these were cut to pieces by a Turkish army.

In the meantime the main army of the crusaders gathered. It was a splendid body of well-disciplined soldiers. There were a hundred thousand mail-clad knights and six hundred thousand



Peter the Hermit Preaching the First Crusade.

footmen, commanded by Godfrey, the Duke of Lor-raine', and Tan'-cred of Sicily, two of the noblest knights in Europe.

The different bodies of troops met at the Bosphorus. The capital city of the Turks, Ni-cæ'-a, was taken. The crusaders then took up the march to An'-ti-och, a distance of two hundred miles. Disease, starvation, and the enemy killed nearly half of them before they reached that city. It was seven months before the stronghold fell into their hands. Then they pushed on to Jerusalem.

At last they came in sight of the Holy City. All their strife and toils were forgotten in their enthusiasm. They kissed the ground and marched bareheaded and barefooted, in the manner of pious pilgrims.

A month was spent in building machines to scale the walls. A first assault was unsuccessful. But at the second the crusaders burst in the city. For seven days there was a fearful slaughter of Moslem and Jews, and it only ceased when there was no one left to kill.

Jerusalem was now made into a Christian kingdom with Godfrey at the head of it. He would not be called king but took the title, Defender of the Holy Sepulcher. This was the end of the first Crusade. It had lasted three years (1096-99). The crusaders now returned to Europe leaving a few hundred knights to guard the holy places.



Crusaders at the Capture of Jerusalem.

A second crusade was provoked in 1147 by the capture of E-des'-sa, a city belonging to the new kingdom of Jerusalem. The Turks slaughtered the whole population as the Christians had done at Jerusalem. The king of France, Louis VII, and Conrad III, Emperor of Germany, took part, but nothing was accomplished.

About this time three associations of knights were formed to fight the Saracens and to defend the Holy Land. The most important was the Templars, or Knights of the Temple. They were so called because one of their buildings stood where Solomon's Temple had been. A second order was the Hos'-pi-tal-ers, or Knights of St. John. During the third Crusade the Society of Teutonic Knights was established. Rivalry among these orders soon brought about great military skill. Many noble knights joined these orders which became rich and powerful.

Just forty years after the second Crusade, the city of Jerusalem was taken by Sal'-a-din, the Mohammedan ruler of Egypt. But Saladin showed a nobler nature than the Christians or Turks. There was no slaughter of prisoners or of defenseless women and children.

Three great sovereigns now set out, each with an army, to recover the Holy City; Richard, King of England, Philip Augustus of France, and the distinguished German emperor, Frederick Bar-

ba-ros'-sa. The emperor was drowned while crossing a swollen stream in Asia Minor and his son,



Death of the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa.

Frederick II, also lost his life in this, the third Crusade. The chief event was the siege of A'-cre, a city on the coast which blocked the way to Jeru-

saalem. The French and the English armies went in ships from Marseilles to Palestine.

It took a long time to capture the place. It is said that six hundred thousand men were gathered about its walls. Saladin made strong efforts to drive the besiegers off, but he failed, and the city surrendered in 1191. But the hot climate and lack of food killed multitudes. Richard was taken sick of a fever.

It is a proof of the noble nature of Saladin that when he heard of Richard's sickness, he sent the choicest food for his table and snow brought from the mountains. Once when Richard's war horse was killed, he sent a fine Arabian charger to take its place.

Philip and Richard could not agree, and the French king led his army home. Richard remained two years after the fall of Acre trying in vain to take Jerusalem. But his troops were so thinned by disease and battle that they were scarcely equal in number to the Moslem garrison in the Holy City, and Saladin with an enormous army was hovering near. So he made a truce with Saladin. It was agreed that the Christians should go untroubled to the holy places, and that a strip of coast from Tyre to Joppa should be held by Richard.

When Richard was returning home he was made a prisoner by the German emperor, Henry

IV. A large amount of money had to be collected in England to ransom him. It was the custom of the times to allow noble prisoners to be freed on paying a ransom. Richard returned to England, but soon departed for France where Philip had seized some of his land. He defeated Philip but was killed soon afterwards while besieging a rebellious vassal. An arrow shot from the battlement of the castle wounded him. He took the castle and the archer who shot the arrow was brought before him.

"What harm have I done you that you have killed me?" asked Richard.

"You slew with your own hand my father and brothers," replied the archer.

"I forgive you my death," said the king, and he ordered him to be set free. After a few days of great suffering the lion-hearted king died.

Richard was the ideal knight of the English chivalry. He was generous and brave. Yet he was greedy of money and often treated the common people with great cruelty. It was a great defect in the knight of the days of chivalry that true courtesy and kindness were only shown to those of noble birth, but those of humble birth were treated with contempt and cruelty.

There were in all eight crusades, but the remaining five are of little importance. They closed in 1291, having lasted almost two hundred years.

In that year the last Christian was driven out of Palestine and the Mohammedans have held the land to this day.

One more crusade deserves mention. This was the Children's Crusade. A French lad named Stephen, only twelve years old, believed that the Saviour had directed him to save the Holy Sepulcher, or tomb of Christ, from the Moslem. Great excitement arose. Passages in the Bible such as, "A little child shall lead them," made grown-up people think that Stephen might be right. Twenty thousand French children gathered at Marseilles. Part of them sailed for Palestine, but were sold as slaves by those who were guiding them. Several thousand more sailed from the eastern coast of Italy and they were never heard of again.

Though the Crusades did not keep Jerusalem out of the hands of the Moslem, they had some good results. They helped to take away power from the feudal nobles who had oppressed the people. Thousands of the nobles died in war. Many more got into so much debt that they could not afford to keep knights about them. When a noble died and had no heirs, his estates went to the king. In this way the kings became strong enough to control the rest of the nobles.

The Crusades also led to commerce between Europe and the East. The Italian cities, Venice and Genoa, became rich in supplying the needs of



The Children's Crusade.

the crusading armies, and they kept up the trade that they had begun. Soon the products of India, China, Persia, and Arabia, were brought to Venice and Genoa. From these cities merchants sold them all over Europe.

THE BEGINNING OF NEW NATIONS

ENGLAND

THE nobles were much less in number after the Crusades. But those that were left became more powerful and the fights between them and the kings in the different countries of Europe still went on.

When Richard the Lion-hearted died, his brother John, a very wicked man, became king. It would take a long time to tell all the bad things he did, but here is one of them.

The rightful heir to the throne was Arthur, the son of John's older brother, Geoffrey. John took Arthur prisoner and shut him up in a castle in Rouen. He ordered the jailer to put out the boy's eyes, but Arthur begged so pitifully that the jailer did not have the heart to do it.

Then John came one night accompanied by his squire, and the two men took Arthur out on the Seine in a boat where they killed him and sunk his body in the river. Whether this is true or not, it is certain that Arthur was never seen again after he left the castle with his uncle.

The French king fought against John and took Normandy away from him. When John summoned his barons to go with him to France to win

the lost province back, they refused to go. Then he began to take away their property and to abuse their families. Some of them were secretly murdered as Arthur had been. No man's life was safe in England while John was king.

At last the barons made war on the king and compelled him to sign a paper called the Great Charter. By doing this he agreed not to take any more money from the people without the consent of the great council composed of the nobles and the bishops of England. He also promised that no man should be unlawfully imprisoned or put to death.

The Great Charter contained many other things that took away the power of the king, and made the life and property of the people safer.

In the reign of John's son, Henry III, Simon de Montfort, the leader of the barons, called together the representatives of the people. These with the nobles and bishops made up the English Parliament, the body which still governs England.

Thus in England the barons and the people joined together to take away power from a wicked king and give it to the people.

For the next two hundred and fifty years the nobles remained very powerful in England; but they did not try to rule independently of the king as in France and Germany. In the middle of the fifteenth century a civil war, called the "Wars of



King John Signing the Great Charter.

the Roses," broke out in England between the rival houses of York and Lancaster. Both these families claimed the throne. So many of the nobles were killed in this war that they never became powerful again.

King Henry VII would not allow them to keep any armed men in their castles. The kings of England then became so strong that they ruled the country without consulting the people very much about it.

After a time one of the kings, Charles I, became so tyrannical that the people rebelled against him and put him to death. England then became a republic for a time. Charles II, the son of Charles I, was restored to the throne, but from that time the people gained more and more power.

FRANCE

When the empire of Charlemagne was divided in 841, his grandson, Charles, became king of the western Franks. He gave the county of Paris to a brave soldier, Robert the Strong. Just as the descendants of Clovis became worthless and were set aside by Pepin, so Pepin's descendants became weak, and at last died out altogether.

Then the counts of Frankland chose Hugh Capet, the great-grandson of Robert the Strong, to be king. Hugh's domain had become known as

the Duchy of France. He was therefore the first King of France.

The French counts and dukes were just as strong as the king, and considered themselves his equal. A large part of the history of France for four centuries is taken up with wars between the king and his vassals. Louis XI at last subdued the last of them and made himself supreme. France became a strong monarchy. The common people in France had little power. They were mostly serfs or slaves, and they did not gain entire freedom from their lords until the outbreak of the French Revolution.

GERMANY AND ITALY

The story of the feudal lords and the king in Germany is quite different from that of France or England. The country became divided into five duchies, Sax'-o-ny, Fran-co'-ni-a, Swa'-bi-a, Ba-va'-ri-a, and Lor-raine'. These great dukes with the bishops elected the German emperor.

In 1356 four princes and three archbishops obtained the right to choose the emperor of Germany. These were called the seven electors, and Germany and Italy together were known as the Holy Roman Empire.

In 911 the family of Charlemagne had died out. The last king of his house was known as

Louis the Child. At his death the nobles met and chose Conrad, of Franconia, king. At this time a tribe of fierce Tartar warriors called Magyars (Ma-jarz') invaded Germany, and a strong king was needed to defend the country. Conrad lived only a few years. On his deathbed he called his brother to him and gave him the crown and jewels.

"Take these to Henry of Saxony," he said. "He is the only one strong enough to defend the country."

The princes met at Aachen and elected Henry. The messengers sent to inform him of his election found him hunting birds. On this account he became known as Henry the Fowler.

Henry proved to be a vigorous ruler. First he compelled the Duke of Lorraine, who had set up an independent kingdom, to obey his authority. Soon the Magyars began to pour into the country. Henry beat them in one battle, but seeing that his soldiers were not fit for war, he made a truce with the barbarians for nine years agreeing to pay them every year a large sum of gold.

Then Henry set to work to train his army. He built forts along the border and stocked them with food and supplies. Before the truce was up he was ready to meet the enemy again.

In the tenth year the Magyar king sent to demand the tribute again.



Henry the Fowler Chosen Emperor of Germany.

"No," said Henry, "not a piece of gold will I give you."

There was a hard struggle, but at Mer'-seburg, in 933, Henry took the camp of the Magyars and got back a large amount of money that they had taken from him. The Magyars then settled along the lower Danube and called their kingdom Hungary, and there they are to-day. They are the only people in Europe except the Turks who do not belong to the white race.

Henry's son, Otto I, was a greater conqueror than his father. Three of the great dukes rebelled against him and he took away their lands and gave them to members of his own family. The Hungarians attacked him, but he defeated them at Augsburg with the loss of one hundred thousand men and they never invaded his empire again.

Italy had been without a good ruler for a long time, and great disorder prevailed. The Italian king tried to compel a beautiful young woman, Adelheid, the widow of a former king, to marry his son. Adelheid ran away and shut herself up in a castle. Then she sent to Otto for help. Like a brave knight Otto went to her assistance. He released her from the castle and married her himself, but not against her will. In the stories the beautiful lady always marries the knight that rescues her.

Otto then turned his arms against the wicked king and drove him out of Italy. Then he joined Italy with Germany and was crowned emperor by the Pope. This was the beginning of the Holy Roman Empire.

It was in the reign of Otto that the wicked Archbishop of Mentz lived about whom the story of the mouse tower is told. He had a strong castle along the Rhine and he had built a strong square tower on an island in the river as a safe retreat in case an enemy attacked him.

The story goes that in a season of famine, the archbishop locked up a multitude of women and children in one of his barns and then set it on fire.

"There," he said as he returned to the castle, "I have burned a lot of these wretched mice who eat up the corn."

No sooner had he spoken than a servant looking out of the window cried out that thousands of mice were coming toward the castle. The terrified bishop at once ran to his strong tower and shut every door and window. But alas for him! This is what the mice did:

"In at the windows and in at the door,
And through the wall by thousands they pour.
And down through the ceiling and up through the floor,
From within and without, from above and below;
And all at once at the bishop they go.

“They have whetted their teeth against the stones,
And now they pick the bishop’s bones,
They gnawed the flesh from every limb ;
For they were sent to do judgment on him.”

In the reign of Otto III, the grandson of Otto I, a dreadful fright came upon the people. It was thought by most people that the world would be burned up in the year 1000. Toward the end of that year the people gathered for prayer in the churches and thousands went on pilgrimages to Rome and other holy places. But the fateful year passed and nothing happened.

The nobles seem to have grown more wicked than ever after this. They built higher and stronger castles, especially on lofty cliffs overlooking the Rhine where many of them still stand. They made war upon each other and robbed the churches and travelers.

One noted robber baron was named Fal’kenstein. He stole the silver bell from a near-by church. A priest went to him to demand the return of it.

“ You want your bell, do you? ” said the baron, “ well, you shall have it and keep it forever.” He then tied the bell about the bishop’s neck, flung him into a well, and filled it in with stones. Soon Fal-kenstein fell sick. One night the silver bell was heard tolling out of the depths of the earth. The

robber heard it with horror. He felt his blood grow cold and he shook like a leaf. At the twelfth stroke of the bell he died. It is said that every year when the day of the baron's death comes around, one may hear the tolling of the bell—a warning to the wicked.

Henry IV, of the Franconian house, was one of the *great* emperors. He is noted for his quarrel with the Pope about the appointment of bishops. A bad custom had grown up of selling these church offices to unworthy men. Gregory VII, who was the greatest of the Popes, determined to put a stop to it. He forbade princes to appoint any more bishops. As Henry went on appointing them, Gregory put him out of the church by excommunication and declared his throne vacant.

As the people and nobles took the side of the Pope, Henry was obliged to come bareheaded and barefooted to Ca-nos'-sa and ask the pardon of the Pope. It was finally settled that the king might select the bishops, but that they must be approved by the Pope. The king gave to the new bishop a scepter as a sign of earthly power. The Pope then gave a ring and staff. The ring meant union with the church, and the staff the care over the people.

The greatest of all the old German emperors was Frederick I of the house of Ho'-hen-stau-fen. He is known as Frederick Barbarossa, or Red-beard. One of the best of his acts was to stop the

wars and plunderings of the barons. He compelled all the princes to obey him, and made the kings of Poland and Bohemia his vassals.

But Frederick with all his power could not conquer the Italian cities. These cities were founded by the Lombard nation whom Narses had brought into Italy. Milan was the leading one. They had grown rich by trade, and were determined to govern themselves. They drove out the counts and bishops who had ruled them. When Frederick came into Italy with his army, they joined in a league against him.

The king captured and burned Milan, but in the end he was defeated and the cities became free and independent.

Frederick's death during the third Crusade has been mentioned. He was the best loved of all the emperors, and the people mourned for him many years. A legend grew up among the peasants that the hero was not dead, but asleep in a cavern among the mountains. In after years, when the empire fell into disorder and weakness, the people sighed for the return of the times of Barbarossa.

Imperial Barbarossa ! chief of the German lords !
In subterranean chamber, a charmed slumber guards.

Grim death hath found his master, for still the Emperor lives;
In his deep castle hidden, the time to sleep he gives.

The Empire's former glory, her great renown of yore.
That vanished with the Kaiser, he will in time restore.

Of ivory the arm chair that forms the Kaiser's bed,
Of marble white the table whereon he rests his head.

His red beard—never whitened—hath yet the fire's glow—
Straight through the slab of marble, down to his feet doth
grow.



Barbarossa Asleep in the Enchanted Cave.

As in a dream he noddeth, half open blinks his eye—
A long space after summons the dwarf that standeth by:

“Go forth before the castle,” as if in sleep he said,
“And see if yet the ravens are circling overhead.

“And if the ancient ravens yet fly about the hill,
A hundred years of slumber holds me enchanted still.”

But Barbarossa did not come forth and no emperor as great as he appeared. Robber barons again robbed the travelers, the merchants, and each other. Princes and counts made petty wars, and Germany for centuries had no good government.

In Spain the petty states were slowly united into two leading kingdoms, Castile and Aragon. In the time of Ferdinand and Isabella, the sovereigns who sent out Columbus, these two kingdoms were joined by the marriage of the king and queen.

THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

THE longest war of which history gives us any account was fought by France and England.

This war was begun in 1327 by King Edward III. Edward claimed that the crown of France belonged to him. His mother was the daughter of the last French king, while Philip, who was chosen to succeed, was only a cousin.

But there was an old law of the Salian Franks called the Salic law, which said that no woman could rule over the Franks. The French said that since Edward's mother could not have been queen, she could not leave the throne to her son.

Another reason for the war was the loss of the French provinces by King John. England at one time owned about half of France. The French were determined to own the land themselves and to rule it. England still owned a part of the western coast of France around Bordeaux, and would not allow the French to conquer the cities of Ghent and Bru'-ges in Flanders. These cities bought English wool, and if France got them, this profitable trade would be lost.

There were three periods to this war. The hero of the first two periods was Edward the Black Prince. Joan, or Jeanne, of Arc, the French peasant girl, was the heroine of the last period.

Above a grave in the Canterbury cathedral hangs a rusty suit of iron armor once worn by the Black Prince. It was the color of this armor that gave him his name. England is very proud of him because he won two battles as famous as any ever won by English soldiers.

The war began with a terrible defeat of the French fleet. Thirty thousand Frenchmen were slain or drowned. No one wanted to take the news to Philip. In those times the king kept at court a clown, or jester, to make sport for him. One day the court jester said:

“What cowards these English are!”

“Why, fool?” asked the king.

“Because they did not have the courage to jump overboard as our French did,” replied the jester.

A few years after this Edward landed an army in Normandy. From Normandy they began a march eastward to join their allies in Flanders, for the Flemish people were on the side of England. At Crécy the French overtook them with an army three times the size of Edward's.

The French were mostly mail-clad knights on horseback, armed with a long lance and a sword. The English army was mainly footmen who used the long bow. They were very expert in the use of this weapon, and the steel-pointed arrows would go right through the knight's armor at close range.

The French knights came riding furiously against the English, but the archers sent such a flight of arrows that thousands of the knights were shot down before they could get close enough to use their lances.

King Edward had put the prince in command of the front line. He was then only sixteen years of age and had not yet become a knight. The king said he would "give the boy a chance to win his spurs." And the prince won them nobly. As the French retreated before the archers, he charged them with his knights and took thousands of prisoners.

The war was interrupted by the black death, a dreadful disease that swept over Europe killing more than half the population. In Germany the Jews were accused of bringing on the plague by poisoning the wells, and on this ridiculous charge thousands of them were killed.

Ten years afterwards the Black Prince led another invasion of France. He set out from Bordeaux and led his men on a plundering expedition through central France. Suddenly he found himself cut off at Poitiers by the French king, John, with sixty thousand men, while he had only eight thousand. For a moment it seemed that the whole army was lost. The French king sent word that if the prince and a hundred knights would surrender, he would let the rest of the army go. But Edward



Edward, the Black Prince, at the Battle of Crécy.

The blind King of Bohemia lies wounded at his feet. The prince holds the king's helmet with the three white feathers which distinguished him in battle.

refused to give up a single man and prepared for battle.

He arranged his archers on both sides of a narrow road along which the French must come. On both sides of the road were hedges which concealed the archers.

The French knights came charging down the road as they did at Crécy and the English shot them down like so many pigeons. The French lost half their army, and King John and hundreds of his knights were captured and carried off to England.

The two countries now made peace, but in a few years war began again, and the Black Prince went through France plundering the poor peasants, cutting down their vines and wheat and burning their cottages. Once he besieged the town of Limoges. The people held out bravely against him. The town had once belonged to the English and the Prince determined to have it back. After much toil he broke through the walls. He then ordered the whole people to be killed, women and children as well as men. He spared three knights whom he admired for fighting so bravely, but the common soldiers were all murdered, no matter how bravely they had fought.

The prince could be kind and courteous to kings and knights, but those of low estate he treated with contempt and cruelty.

Soon after this the prince returned to England. Though only forty-six years of age, his many wars had broken down his health, and he died in 1376, one year before his great father, Edward III. His massacre of the people of Limoges is the one great blot upon his name; but in those days the common people were thought no better than cattle and it was held no great crime to slaughter a few thousands of them.

Sixty years after the great victory of the Black Prince at Poitiers, the warlike English king Henry V invaded France again. He won the battle of Agincourt where eight thousand Englishmen beat sixty thousand Frenchmen as in the times of Edward IV. Henry captured Paris, drove out the French king, and had himself crowned King of France. Soon after this he died and his son, a baby, became King Henry VI.

The English generals went on subduing France, taking town after town. At last they surrounded Orleans, a great city south of Paris. If that city should fall, the French king would have to leave his country to the English.

At this terrible time help came to the French king in a way that no one had dreamed of. In Lorraine, in eastern France lived a little peasant girl called Jeanne d'Arc. She was a simple, pious girl, but she had never been to school, and I suppose could not even read. As the English went on de-



Charge of the French Knights at Agincourt.

stroying the fair French towns and villages, many a tale of cruelty and distress came to the ears of Jeanne. At last she fancied she heard the voices of angels saying to her:

“Go forth, Jeanne, and save France. Lead the French prince to Rheims and do not rest till he is crowned king and anointed with the holy oil.” She had heard, too, an old prophecy that said, “France in the time of her greatest distress shall be saved by a maiden.”

Then she told her mother that she must go to the king and help him. Her mother and her friends tried to hinder her, but at last a good French knight who heard her tale took her to the king.

“My name is Jeanne,” she said, “and God has sent me to deliver Orleans from the English and to save France. He has told me that I shall lead you to be anointed and crowned in the holy city of Rheims.”

Charles, the prince, had lost all hope of ever being able to drive out the English and he let her have her way.

The soldiers of France had lost hope too, but when it was noised abroad that a virgin had been sent from heaven to lead them against their enemies, their courage rose again.

Jeanne was given a suit of armor and placed upon a white horse.



Jeanne d'Arc Wounded.

At the head of the French army, she led them against the English who were gathered about Orleans. At her bidding they burst through the ranks of the enemy and entered the town in triumph. Never was such rejoicing heard in France. Thousands, who left the army in despair, now took up arms again and they drove the English northward.

She now urged the dauphin, as the French heir to the throne was called, to go to Rheims to be crowned, but Charles would not go yet. Finally when Jeanne took the strong city of Troyes, Charles marched to Rheims where French kings always received their crowns. The people who had joined the English, when they heard of the coming of the heavenly maid, hastened to drive them out and to promise to be faithful to the French king.

In July, 1429, Jeanne and a large company of priests escorted Charles into the great cathedral where he was crowned King of France.

The maid now wished to return to her home. She had done all that the heavenly voices had told her to do. But the king would not consent. He thought that he could not win battles without her.

By and by she began to be less successful and lost several battles. The voices did not speak to her as clearly as before. The French began to lose faith in her and the English ceased to fear her. She told the king her work was done and that she could do no more. Once she failed in an attack



Death of Jeanne d'Arc.

on the city of Paris which was still held by the English. Then she took off her suit of white armor and hung it up in a church, before the shrine of St. Denis, and resolved to go home. But the king persuaded her to remain.

At last she was taken prisoner, given to the English, and put in prison.

Then her friends deserted her, and those who had once thought her an angel sent from heaven, now began to think that she was a witch.

She was brought to trial before an English court and condemned to be burned alive!

She was fastened to a stake and the wood was piled about her. All the time she continued to pray, and the last word she uttered as the flame and smoke rose up, was the name of "Jesus." An English soldier who stood by, suddenly cried out, "We are lost, we have burned a saint!"

The soldier was right, the English cause was lost. They were driven out of France. The poor country girl helped France as much by her death as she had when alive. The people of France saw then how unjustly she had been treated, and how wicked it was to give her up to her enemies and the enemies of France. They rose against the hated English and did not rest until the last of them was driven out of their beloved country. The Hundred Years' War was over.

THE REVIVAL OF LEARNING

REVIVAL means a bringing to life again. When a country has schools and colleges, books, and works of art, and when the people are educated, we may say learning is found there.

The barbarian tribes that swarmed into Europe cared nothing for learning. The books of the Greeks and Romans were destroyed. There were no schools worthy the name. Here and there a wise king like Alfred the Great or Charlemagne, had established schools, but most kings cared only for war.

The knights and nobles despised learning. Study was for priests and not a fit occupation for a soldier. A few schools were kept up in the churches or in the convents where the monks lived; but these were only for the education of the priests.

We may say truly that learning had died out in Europe.

During the fifteenth century it was revived, or brought to life again in Italy.

Italy was less exposed to the attacks of the barbarians than the other European countries. The Lombard cities were the first to grow rich. Florence, Venice, Genoa, and Pavia, had many citizens who had grown wealthy by trade. When people

have money they can devote their time to writing books or to painting and sculpture.

The people of these rich Italian cities were the first people in Europe to give some attention to books.

The poet Petrarch was the first to begin to study the old Greek and Latin books. He loved to read the poems of Homer. He said that there were not more than ten men in Italy who could understand them.

Petrarch and other Italian scholars began to search through the old libraries of the churches and monasteries for rolls of parchment containing old writings. In neglected cellars among heaps of rubbish, and in strange nooks and out-of-the-way corners they found here and there a manuscript which was priceless.

These precious old rolls were unrolled and copies were made and placed in libraries. It was in the fifteenth century that Pope Nicholas V founded the great Vatican library at Rome. He collected five thousand volumes at a cost of \$250,000. This Pope kept several hundred clerks at work copying books, for you must remember that there were no printing presses at that time.

Constantinople was the only city that had not been taken by the invading tribes. Many valuable collections of books were kept there. Schools were kept up and many learned Greeks taught in them.



Statue of Gutenberg, the Inventor of the Printing Press..

In the thirteenth century the Turks began to attack this city. They crossed the Bosphorus and captured all the land about the city. The Turkish Sultan, Baj-a-zet', defeated an army of one hundred thousand French and German knights and swore that in a short time "he would stable his horse in St. Peter's Church at Rome."

But before Bajazet could carry out his plans, his own kingdom in Asia was invaded by Tamerlane', a descendant of the great Genghis Khan of whom we read in the story of China. His name was really Timour the Lame. He was so called because he was lame in one of his legs. But this name was changed into Tamerlane.

Tamerlane ruled in Turkestan. His capital was at Sam-ar-cand', where he lived in a fine palace of marble. He was chief of the Mongols, a tribe of Tartars. He had conquered all of Asia except India and Turkey, both of which he afterwards did conquer. He was more cruel than Attila, the "scourge of God." It is estimated that he burned and plundered fifty thousand towns and killed five millions of people. When he took Ispahan in Persia he slew seventy thousand. At Delhi in India, one hundred thousand prisoners were massacred. He took Bagdad, the old capital of Haroun-al-Raschid, and made a pyramid of ninety thousand heads at the gates of the city.

He now decided to subdue the whole world.

“There is only one God in heaven,” said he, “and there should be only one king on earth.” From Bagdad he marched west. Bajazet hurried away from Constantinople to meet him. They met at Angora in Asia Minor. The Turkish army was destroyed. Bajazet was made a prisoner. Timour put him in an iron cage and chained him to one of the bars. In this way he was carried from place to place for the amusement of the Mongol soldiers.

Tamerlane returned to his capital and gave several weeks to feasting. Then he called his armies together and set out to reconquer China which had just rebelled and had driven out her Mongol emperors. On the march he died. His empire fell to pieces at once, and the world breathed a little more freely when it heard that he was dead.

The people of Constantinople knew that sooner or later their city would be taken. They could hardly muster ten thousand soldiers while their enemy had several hundred thousand. Many Greeks began to leave the city for Italy. Teachers and scholars, who owned precious parchment rolls, took their treasures to Italy. They set up schools in the Italian cities, where they taught Greek and Latin.

They were made welcome. The Italians had become earnest students of these languages and they gave their wealth to these Greek teachers. Many hundreds and even thousands of these pre-

cious old books of Greece and Rome were thus saved. For in 1453 Mohammed II besieged Constantinople with two hundred thousand men and took it by storm. He took down the cross from



Mohammed II. Entering Constantinople.

the steeple of the cathedral of St. Sophia, and put up the crescent, the sign of the Mohammedan religion.

Since 1453 the Turks have continued to hold the city on the Bosphorus, that Constantine had thought the finest place in the whole world for a capital.

While the Italian clerks were slowly copying old manuscripts with pen and ink, a German, John Gutenberg, of Mainz, was inventing a quicker method of book-making. Long ages ago the Chinese had discovered a way of printing. Before Gutenberg's time this Chinese method was in use in Europe also.

A block of hard wood was made of the size of the page to be printed. On this block was carefully carved the words and sentences of that page. When this was done, the wood around the letters was cut away leaving the letters standing out in relief.

Ink was put on the block. It was then carefully pressed down on a sheet of paper, just as we use a rubber stamp to-day.

Gutenberg improved this method by cutting out each letter separately on a piece of wood or metal. When this movable type had been used to print one page, it could be taken out to set up another page. Thus the printing press was invented in 1438. About the same time also the art

of making paper from linen rags was discovered. These were two of the greatest inventions ever made by man.

A few years after this invention, printing presses were set up in Italy. The greatest printer of the age was Al'-dus Ma-nu'-ti-us of Venice.



John Gutenberg and the First Printing Press.

Gutenberg's first printed book was a Latin Bible made about 1450.

Aldus printed hundreds of books in Greek and Latin. His books were famous for their beauty and freedom from mistakes.

Scholars from England, France, and Germany

flocked to Italy to learn of the great teachers there. When they returned to their homes they carried with them copies of the books they had studied. For the teaching in the Italian schools consisted in reading and copying the old Greek and Latin manuscripts. First the teacher would read a passage. This was written down by the class. Then the teacher would explain the meaning of the passage copied; this was also written. When the course was finished, each pupil would have a complete copy of the book along with the explanations given by the teacher.

In a few years schools were established all over Europe for the study of Greek and Latin, or the New Learning, as it was called. Books on geography and travel were eagerly read, for men had begun to make voyages along the coasts of Africa and northern Europe.

In Germany and England, the study of Hebrew and Greek was begun and carefully followed out. Disputes about religion had begun, and many were displeased with the teachings of the old church. As the Bible was written in Greek and Hebrew these languages must be learned in order to read it.

The revival of learning in Italy was followed by a time when men became fearfully wicked. Much of this crime was due to bad government. There were over two hundred small states quarrel-

ing and fighting with one another. If a man had any enemies he got rid of them by murder or poison. Some of the cities were ruled by dukes. When a new duke began his government, he thought it necessary for his safety to kill off his enemies.

It was said by some that the new studies caused much of this wickedness. Many fell away from the church and came to hate and despise religion. This was also laid to the study of the pagan authors.

But the revival of learning had many good results, for it led men to search for new lands in new ways, and it made men freer and better in the end.

THE SEARCH FOR THE INDIES

WHEN Alexander the Great led his army into India he was surprised to find a rich and prosperous land. The people had much gold and jewels. They knew how to make fine cloth; they had books and were an intelligent and warlike race.

This was the first time that people from Europe had visited India. The Greek settlers in Asia began a trade with India which was kept up for many centuries. Even before Alexander's time it is probable that the Phœnician merchants carried on trade with the far Eastern countries by way of Babylonia.

When the Crusaders marched through Asia Minor, they were astonished at the wealth and splendor of the great cities. They were delighted with the perfumes and spices of Arabia. The skill of the Arabs in the making of steel weapons was greater than their own. The people of Asia could make beautifully dyed cloths. They also understood arithmetic, algebra, chemistry, and astronomy, and had translated many of the Greek books into their own language.

Through the Crusaders, the people of Europe became accustomed to the luxuries of Eastern countries. When these wars were over, the Italian cities, especially Venice and Genoa, began a trade

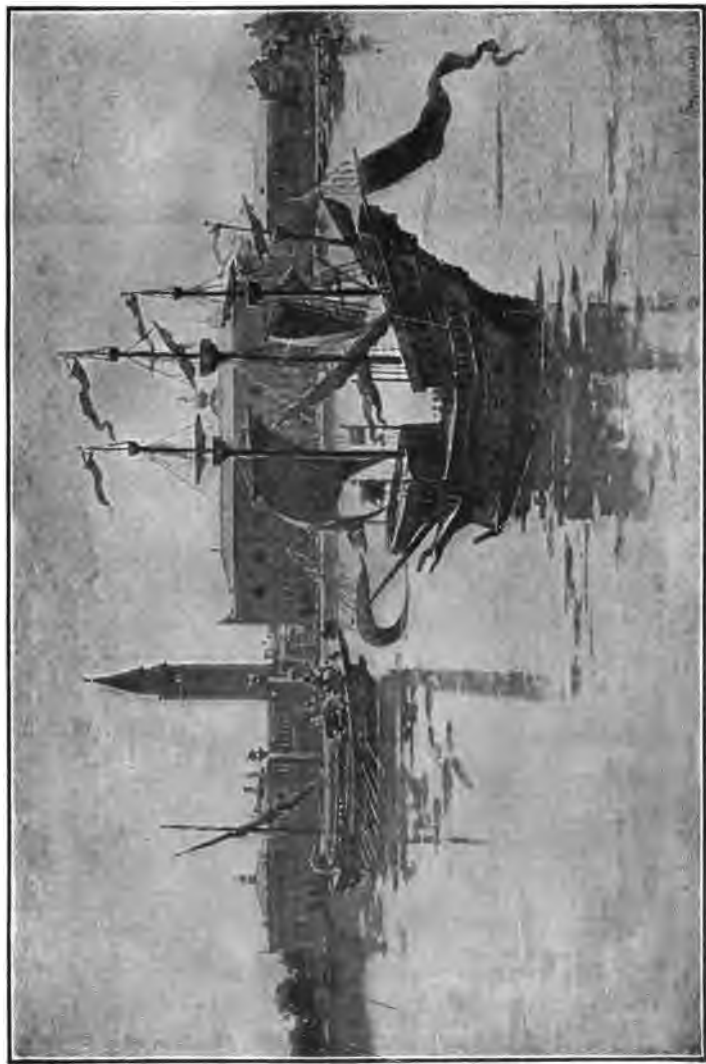
with Asia that made them the richest cities in the world. The goods brought to these cities were sold to kings and nobles through all Europe.

By and by travelers made their way to far-off Cathay, or China, and to the Spice Islands of the East Indies. The most noted of these travelers, Marco Polo, has already been mentioned as a visitor at the court of Kublai, the Tartar emperor of China.

Polo wrote an account of his travels. The tales he told of the splendid cities and rich palaces of marble, ivory, and gold, were not believed by his fellow-countrymen. He told of the island of Cipango in the ocean east of Cathay. He made a voyage among the Spice Islands, along the coast of India, and through the Persian Gulf, and everywhere he saw signs of luxury and wealth. At the close of his life some one asked him if he had not erred in his account of his travels. "Every word of it is true," said he.

The merchants of Genoa were friendly with the Greek emperors of Constantinople. They were allowed to send their ships into the Black Sea and to trade with the people in southern Russia. From this place they sent caravans overland to China, and brought back the rich silks of that country.

Venice traded in the eastern Mediterranean with Egypt and the coast of Asia. Here they met caravans which journeyed as far as the Tigris and



Italian Merchant Ships of the Time of Marco Polo.

Euphrates rivers and the Persian Gulf. There these caravans bought goods of other caravans that came from countries still farther east.

When the Turks took possession of Western Asia they would no longer allow the Christian merchants to trade in those parts, and after they took Constantinople they shut the vessels of Genoa out of the Black Sea. Their pirate ships swarmed in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, and it was unsafe for a merchant vessel to venture into those parts, unless well armed.

The Turks sailed even out into the Atlantic and along the coasts of Europe and Africa, and many a battle was fought with them by sailors of Italy and Portugal.

Columbus tells of a sea fight which a vessel of Genoa had with a Turk off the Portuguese coast. The Genoese ship was sunk and the crew swam ashore, Columbus among them.

When the Eastern trade routes were thus cut off by the Turks, the Italian cities began to search for a new route to India by sea. In this work the Portuguese took the lead. Marco Polo had told of a great ocean on the east coast of India and China. If they could only find this ocean! But Africa was in the way. They must sail around it. It was not thought to be very far. But there were strange ideas about the ocean in those times. People thought that if one sailed out to the edge of the

ocean, the ship would fall off the earth, or else be destroyed by the terrible monsters that were thought to live there. They thought the earth to be flat, like a round pie dish, and that the ocean was a great stream flowing around the outer edge.

Then it was believed that as one approached the equator, the water became boiling hot, and of course no one could sail a ship on boiling water.

But Prince Henry of Portugal was not disturbed by these tales. He sent out ship after ship along the coast of Africa to look for a strait through it or a way around it. He also told his sailors to go ashore and look for gold. The sailors were easily frightened and soon turned back. When they reached Cape Non, they were met with such terrible storms that they did not think it possible to go farther.

When Prince Henry died in 1463, his sailors had gone as far as the gold coast. In 1471 they crossed the equator and were astonished *not* to find boiling water. At last in 1486, Batholomew Diaz reached the most southern point of Africa, which was named the Cape of Good Hope. For now they had "good hope" of reaching Polo's wonderful ocean and the Indies.

In 1498 four ships sailed under the command of Vasco da Gama, a young man, but one who was never frightened by anything. When he reached the Cape, the storms so alarmed his men that they

resolved to turn back. But Vasco locked them up and sailed on.

He passed the Natal coast on Christmas Day, which he named in honor of the birth of Christ. On he sailed up the eastern coast. At Mozambique he found a pilot who knew the way to India. Then they struck eastward across the Indian Ocean and arrived at last in the harbor of Calicut on the western coast of India. The road to the Indies was found at last.

Everywhere da Gama found the Moors in possession of the trade. A battle was fought with them at Calicut before they would allow the Portuguese to go ashore. In 1500 da Gama returned to Lisbon with his ships laden with the treasures of the East. The Portuguese now sailed frequently over da Gama's route to India. Their great generals, Al-me'-i-da and Al-bu-quer'-que, drove out the Mohammedans, and Portuguese settlements took their place along the African coast.

While the Portuguese were sailing east around Africa in search of the Indies, Columbus was hoping to find them by sailing west. When he read Polo's tale of a great ocean east of Asia, he said that this ocean was only the western side of the Atlantic Ocean, and that the world was round like a globe and not flat like a plate as most people thought. Being round, India could be reached by sailing west, just as a fly can walk around an apple.



Vasco da Gama Before the Indian King at Calicut.

home, and only one of his five ships returned. The tale of his voyage is one of the most thrilling and interesting in history.

These voyages would not have been possible had it not been for the mariner's compass, by which the sailor can steer his ship in fair weather or in storm, by day or by night. And without gunpowder and muskets the explorers would not have been able to conquer the fierce natives that they found on every coast. It was the savage tribes in the Philippine Islands that killed Magellan, and the first colony that Columbus established in Hayti was soon destroyed by the Indians.

A new period in the history of the world begins with the voyage of Columbus and the finding of the Indians. We call it modern history. Three great inventions mark the beginning of this period, printing, the compass, and gunpowder.

In the next chapters we shall read a very important part of modern history, that is, how the common people put down their tyrannical kings and became free.

DISPUTES AND WARS ABOUT RELIGION

DURING early times most Christian people believed that there should be one church and one empire. As there could be but one true religion, they thought that all people should be forced to have that one. Mohammed said the same thing, and tried to force all the world to accept his religion.

In the early days of the Christian Church, there was a bishop, or overseer, in each city to manage the different churches there. But after a time the Bishop of Rome became the head bishop, or Pope, of all the churches. It was thought, and perhaps wisely at that time, that the people should have nothing to say about religion and little to say about government.

Now we have come to believe that every man has the right to belong to any church he prefers, and that every nation may alter its government to suit itself.

After the revival of learning and the invention of the printing press, books became common. The Bible and the books written about it by the great bishops and scholars of the Christian Church, began to be read and studied. As might have been expected, disputes soon sprang up about the teachings of the church. One of the first to find fault

with the rule of the Pope was John Wycliffe, an Englishman.

King John had promised to pay the Pope an annual sum of money. Wycliffe said this ought not to be paid. He also said that the clergy had too much land and power in England. His followers were called Lollards. King Henry V had a law passed to burn all those who would not believe the teachings of the regular church. Such persons were called heretics. All those who think alike on matters of religion we call a sect. The sect of the Lollards was put down. Some were burned and others driven out of the country.

The ideas of Wycliffe next sprang up in Bohemia, now one of the divisions of Austria. John Huss and Jerome of Prague began to dispute the teachings of the church concerning the Lord's Supper. At that time there were three popes, each of whom claimed to be the rightful one. But as there could be but one, a council of the church was held at Constance in Switzerland to settle the matter. The council had Huss and Jerome burned at the stake for heresy.

A terrible and cruel war then broke out between Bohemia and the empire. It lasted fifteen years. The followers of Huss were all killed and then peace was made.

The next great dispute over church matters arose in Germany. This was begun by Martin

Luther, a monk and preacher at Wittenberg. The sale of indulgences by a monk named Tetzel was the cause of the trouble. The people got the idea from what Tetzel said that by buying an indulgence they would be forgiven for any crime they might commit, and that by a payment of money they could get their dead friends out of purgatory.

In 1517 Luther nailed to the church door of Wittenberg ninety-five theses, or points, in which he disagreed with the Pope. The Pope sent an Italian scholar to dispute with Luther, and to convince him of error, but to no purpose. Luther issued an address to the "Christian Nobles of Germany," calling upon them to resist the Pope. He was then excommunicated by the Pope. But Luther burned the document, or "bull," which put him out of the church, at the gates of the city in the presence of a crowd of people.

This rebellion against the authority of the Catholic Church begun by Luther spread through Europe.

Many attempts were made to restore peace. At an assembly of the princes, nobles, and clergy known as the Diet of Worms, Luther defended his actions. He was declared a heretic and an outlaw. But the princes of Germany, especially Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, protected him from violence. After this diet his ideas spread more rapidly than ever.

A diet, or assembly, at Spires, in 1529, forbade anyone to promote the spread of the new doctrines. Seven German princes, and some of the cities, protested against this order. This gave the name of Protestants to those who followed Luther. And because the Protestants claimed to reform the church, this movement is called the Reformation. And when we speak of the Reformation we always mean the rebellion against the authority of the Pope that divided the Christians into Catholics and Protestants.

The Teutonic nations, Germany, England, Norway, Sweden, Holland, and Denmark, accepted the Reformation and became Protestant countries. The Latin, or Romance nations, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France, held to the Pope, and these are the Catholic nations of Europe. The Latin nations are so called because their language is made up largely of Latin, the language of the Romans.

Scotland and Ireland were neither Teutonic nor Latin. The former accepted the Reformation through its great leader, John Knox. Ireland, however, "the ever-faithful isle," remained true to the Catholic Church. The most powerful ruler in Luther's time was Charles V, King of Spain and German emperor. He ruled the Netherlands also, and the Spanish colonies in Mexico and South America.

Charles fought four wars with Francis I, King of France. Both kings claimed northern Italy. But Charles defeated Francis at Pavia and took him prisoner. The gallant Bayard, a knight "fearless and blameless," fell at Pavia. He was the bravest and noblest of the chivalry of France. When the wars were all over, the possessions of the two kings were just what they were before the wars began.

The chief desire of Charles was to make his subjects think alike on matters of religion. But after many wars and councils he was obliged to give it up. In 1555 he resigned his crown to his son, Philip II, and went to a monastery in Spain to live out the rest of his life.

The great object of Philip's reign was to compel all Protestants to become Catholics again.

"Better not rule at all than rule over heretics," was his motto. The people of the Netherlands were Protestants. There were seventeen provinces, each with its own government and laws. The people were manufacturers and merchants, and the cities were the richest in Europe.

Along the sea great dikes had been built to keep out the water, and countless canals traversed the country in every direction. The people of the country were farmers and keepers of cattle. Everywhere they were intelligent, prosperous, and happy.

Philip made his sister, Margaret, the ruler of



The Gallant Bayard Defending the Bridge.

the Netherlands, and sent a Spanish army into the country. Some Dutch nobles and merchants once came to her to ask for a more liberal government. There were so many of them that Margaret became frightened. Seeing this, a member of her council said:

“Surely, you are not afraid of a pack of beggars!”

“They call us beggars,” said one of the Dutchmen. “Let us keep the title.”

That night, at a banquet, a wooden bowl of wine was passed around, and health and success was drunk to the “Beggars of Holland.”

The next governor was the Duke of Alva. He was a man of blood. His plan was to torture, hang, and burn all Protestants. Two of the most popular Dutch nobles, Counts Egmont and Horn, were executed.

William of Orange, called the Silent, became the leader of the Dutch against Philip. He fled to Germany and gathered soldiers until he had thirty thousand men, and the war began. For thirty-seven years the struggle lasted, and when it ended Holland had become an independent nation with religious freedom, and Spain had sunk to the level of a third-rate power.

In 1516 the provinces joined together and chose William Stadtholder, or President, and agreed to fight together till the Spanish were driven out. A



The Dutch Nobles Ask for a More Liberal Government.

hired assassin of Philip shot William in 1584, but Prince Maurice succeeded, and the war went on. Philip died in 1598, and the war was not yet over.

At last, in 1609, the war ended; but Spain did not acknowledge the independence of Holland till 1648.

And now let us go back a few years to notice two other enterprises of Philip, one a great success, the other a failure. For a thousand years the Mohammedans had been fighting against Christian Europe. Their pirates had driven the merchants from the Mediterranean, and thousands of Christians had been sold into slavery. It was Philip who crushed the power of the Turkish fleet at Lepanto, on the west coast of Greece. Six hundred ships and two hundred thousand men fought in this battle. The Turkish fleet was entirely destroyed, and from this time their power grew less and less.

This was the success. The failure was his attempt to conquer England in 1588. The Reformation had spread to that country in the time of Henry VIII. This king separated from the Pope and set up a church of his own. When his daughter Mary, a Catholic, came to the throne, she married Philip II, and the old religion was restored. Mary reigned only a few years. Her sister Elizabeth succeeded her in 1558. She was a Protestant and persecuted the Catholics, as Mary had persecuted the Protestants.

Philip determined to make England Catholic again. He sent a fleet, known as the Invincible Armada, and an army against England. The English fleet destroyed many of the Spanish ships. The rest were caught in a terrible storm and were wrecked on the coast of Scotland. From this time England became the strongest nation on the sea, and the ships of Spain were captured and plundered without mercy.

The religious wars in France lasted seventy years, from 1562 to 1629. Over a million lives were lost and four hundred towns and villages were destroyed. The Protestants were killed or driven out of the country.

The last and most awful war between Catholics and Protestants was fought in Germany, and is called the Thirty Years' War. All Europe took part in this war, and when it ended both sides agreed to let each other live in peace until they could grow strong enough to fight again. But when that time came, they had learned that it was better to let each nation manage its own religious affairs, and wars on account of religion were over.

The Thirty Years' War began in Bohemia. A Protestant church was torn down by Catholics, and another one was closed. The Protestants rose and drove out their Catholic king and chose a Protestant king. The Catholic king, Ferdinand, was

soon chosen German emperor. He then turned upon his enemies in Bohemia and crushed them.

England, Holland, and Denmark now joined the Protestant side. But the emperor's skillful generals, Tilly and Wal'-len-stein, were too strong for the Protestants and defeated them.

The King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus, then took up the Protestant cause. Wallenstein, the best general of the empire, had been dismissed for taking too much power to himself. He kept a court more splendid than the emperor, and was always attended by a multitude of followers.

When Gustavus came with his army of sixteen thousand Swedes, Tilly was besieging the city of Magdeburg. The German princes, who were jealous of him, would give no help, the town was taken and burned, and thirty thousand people perished.

At Leipsic Tilly was defeated. The German princes had seen the folly of their conduct, and came to the aid of the "Lion of the North."

In a second battle with Gustavus, Tilly was defeated and killed.

The emperor was now obliged to ask Wallenstein to take command. A new army was raised, and the two greatest generals of the age faced each other at Lützen. The contest raged all day. Gustavus lost his way in a fog and rode into the ranks of the enemy. Being mortally wounded he was asked who he was.



Gustavus Adolphus Praying before Battle of Lützen.

"I was the King of Sweden," he replied, and fell dead. The Swedes won the battle, but the loss of their gallant leader disheartened them.

Soon after this battle Wallenstein planned to betray the emperor's cause to the enemy and was assassinated by the order of Ferdinand.

The war now came to an end. The results of it were awful. The population of Germany had decreased from thirty millions to twelve millions. There was scarcely a city left. A few hundred half-starved people made up the population of Berlin. Trade, business, and all useful occupations had ceased. Wallenstein's plan was like that of Attila the Hun, who said the grass never grew again where his horse had trod.

Peace was made in 1648. Holland and Switzerland were made independent nations. Both sides agreed not to meddle with each other's religion in the future. The Thirty Years' War settled one great question, that one nation has no right to tell another nation what that nation's religion shall be. It did away forever with the notion that it is the duty of one church to force its religion upon the world with the sword.

SWITZERLAND

IN our account of the nations of Europe we must not leave out the story of Switzerland, the smallest and bravest of them all.

Julius Cæsar, during his wars in Gaul, met in the Alpine valleys a hardy tribe of mountaineers. The people that live among mountains are always noted for bravery and the love of liberty. The Swiss were left free by the Romans and became their friends.

When Europe was invaded by Goths and Huns, the people among the mountains were not disturbed. Those barbarians were seeking the rich Italian valleys, and cared nothing for the rough, rocky soil of the Alps.

The Swiss were divided into little districts called cantons. When the land was made a fief of Austria in 1033, the Austrian princes began to rule the cantons harshly and to tax the people heavily. The three mountain cantons, Uri, Schwytz, and Unterwalden united into a league to defend themselves. The Swiss were proud and would not follow the feudal regulations of lord and vassal.

The old story of William Tell may not be exactly true, but it is firmly believed by the Swiss. For some time the Swiss had been gathering arms to defend themselves against the Austrians, from

whom they expected an attack. Tell was one of the leaders in this work. He was an expert shot with the bow, the leading weapon in those days when guns were unknown.

The Austrian governor, Gess'-ler, was angered by the haughty independence of the Swiss, and he determined to humble them. So he placed his hat on a pole in Altorf, and ordered that every Swiss that passed should bow to it. Those who did not bow were arrested as rebels.

Tell, passing that way, refused to bow and was seized by the guards. Some friends spoke in his behalf, and Gessler offered to set him free if he could shoot an apple from the head of his son. The arrow pierced the apple without hurting the boy. But Gessler noticed that Tell had taken a second arrow from his quiver and had it stuck in his belt ready for use.

"Ha!" he cried, "what is the other arrow for?"

"That arrow was meant for you," Tell replied, "if I had injured my son."

At this Gessler ordered him to be put in a boat to be taken to prison, and he went himself with the guards. In the midst of the lake a storm arose, and Tell was allowed to take an oar and help to save the boat from wreck. As they neared the shore, Tell leaped out and shot the tyrant dead as he sat in the boat. He then roused the Swiss

people to oppose a force of Austrians which was coming against them.



William Tell and Gessler.

At Mor-gar'-ten Pass they waited for their enemies. When the Austrians appeared, they were attacked on every side by the active Swiss and totally defeated, 1315.

The other hero of Switzerland was Arnold von Wink'-el-ried. Another invasion of Austrians came in 1386. The Swiss met them at Sem'pach. This time they were at a disadvantage. The Austrian soldiers charged them with close ranks; and rows of long, projecting spears made it impossible for the Swiss to get at close quarters with them.

Arnold saw that unless a break could be made in the lines, his countrymen would be defeated.

"Follow me, comrades!" he cried, "I will make a road for you."

" 'Make way for liberty !' he cried,
Then ran, with arms extended wide,
As if his dearest friend to clasp ;
Ten spears he swept within his grasp.

" 'Make way for liberty !' he cried,
Their keen points met from side to side.
He bowed among them like a tree,
And thus made way for liberty."

His comrades rushed into the gap and won the Battle of Sempach. And from that day to this Switzerland has been a free republic.



Arnold Winkelried "Makes Way for Liberty."

PETER THE GREAT AND RUSSIA

IN the story of the Northmen we have seen how a pirate chief, Rurik, began the kingdom of Russia. The Fins, living along the Baltic Sea, called the invaders *Rustsi* (pirates). From this came the word Russia. But the Mongols and Turks, who invaded Europe from time to time, completely crushed the little kingdom. The Russians were made slaves and forced to pay tribute for more than two hundred years.

In the fifteenth century, Ivan the Great freed his country from the Tartars and built up a new kingdom at Moscow. In 1682 the greatest of the Russian rulers, Peter the Great, came to the throne of Muscovy, as the country was then called. During his reign of forty-three years, he changed his little barbarous kingdom into a great and progressive modern empire.

One of Peter's intimate friends was a Swiss named Lefort. Lefort had traveled widely, and he told Peter how affairs were managed in the great European nations.

Peter's first work was to get seaports. His only port was Archangel, in the north. The harbor was frozen during the greater part of the year and was of little use. The Swedes held the Baltic, and the Tartars kept the region bordering on the Black

Sea. In two expeditions Peter broke the Tartar power in the south and seized a port on the Sea of Azof.

Now he needed a fleet. The Russians had no ships and did not know how to build them.

Peter determined to learn how. He disguised himself as a common laborer and went to Holland. The Dutch were the best shipbuilders in the world at that time. He hired himself to a rich shipbuilder at Amsterdam and helped to build a large vessel for the East Indian service. He learned the whole process of building a ship, from the laying of the keel to the rigging of the sails.

After a time it leaked out that the active and hustling workman was the King of Russia. The Dutch called him Boss Peter. They have preserved the little house where he lived, and you may still see the two rooms where he cooked his food and slept.

Peter was not content to learn *one* thing. He also studied medicine, learned to pull teeth, and studied the manufacture of paper, flour, and the construction of mills and printing presses. In fact, every art and industry that he thought might be of use to build up his own country was carefully studied. He was not interested in war, but later he became a good soldier.

From Holland he went to England. King William III gave him a beautiful vessel fitted out



Peter the Great Studying Ship-Building among the Dutch.

for war, and arranged a mock naval battle to show him how to use it. When Peter departed he slipped into the king's hand a large and beautiful ruby of great value.

Ivan the Great had organized a powerful company of guards called the Strel'-it-zes. This imperial bodyguard reminds us of the Pretorian Guard at Rome. When the government did not suit them, they rebelled and set up a king that they liked better.

While Peter was studying naval tactics in England, he heard that the Strelitzes had revolted. He hurried back to Moscow, and with his own sword he cut off the heads of a hundred of the rebels in an hour. He then disbanded them altogether and organized a new army.

The dress of the Russians was like that of the Turks. They wore long robes with wide sleeves, and long beards were the height of fashion. Peter wanted them to dress like the people of civilized countries, and made a law that every man except the priests should cut off his beard. He ordered the long robes to be shortened, and the loose sleeves to be made smaller. When some of his courtiers objected to this new regulation, Peter took a pair of shears and clipped off their beards and skirts himself. He also placed barbers and tailors at the gates of the city, and when a long-bearded Russian came along he was seized and shaved.

The results of Peter's travels were now seen in other changes. He began by building schools and factories. Then he laid out roads and canals, and established a postal system. The gold and silver were made into new coins, mining was begun, and new laws were made, giving the people of each town a share in the government.

While Peter was busy with these things, a boy of fifteen years became King of Sweden. Several kings of Europe thought this a good time to rob Sweden of some of her land. Peter wanted the Baltic coast as a place to build a new capital, and to afford harbors for his ships.

But the new king was Charles XII, who turned out to be a young Alexander. He attacked Peter at Narva, and with eight thousand men beat twenty thousand Russians.

"The Swedes have beaten us this time," said Peter, "but they will soon teach us how to beat them." And they did. At Pul'-to-wa, the Russians so defeated the army of Charles that he fled into Turkey with less than a dozen men.

Peter now filled in the marshes along the river Neva and built the city of St. Petersburg. This brought Russia into the midst of European affairs, and made her one of the greatest of the nations.

One more war, this time against Persia, brought to Russia the Caspian Sea and the land around it. Two years later Peter died of a fever which he got

by exposing himself in assisting some shipwrecked sailors in the Gulf of Finland.

Forty years after his death (1762) another great sovereign came to the throne of Russia. This was Catherine the Great, the ablest woman that



The Battle of Pultowa.

ever sat on a throne. She was fully as active and far more wicked than the great Peter himself.

There is only one of Catherine's many deeds that we shall now try to remember, and that one is the seizure of Poland. With Prussia and Austria she divided that kingdom, and each of the robbers

took a part. The Poles fought desperately under their patriotic leader, Kos-ci-us'-ko, but they were defeated by the three giants who seized their country.

"Now," said Catherine, "I have a doormat on which I may step when I go into Europe."

Poland was ruled by a Russian governor at first, and the people were allowed to have their own laws and the Catholic religion. But in 1832 they rebelled on account of harsh government.

After a series of bloody battles they were put down, and eighty thousand of them were exiled to Siberia in one year.

The *Roman* Catholic religion was suppressed and the *Greek* Catholic faith forced upon the people.

The Russian Government is still the harshest in Europe. Some day the people will no doubt rise up and demand liberty.

PEOPLE AGAINST KINGS

THERE was once an uprising of the people in an old city of Europe. Some of the rebels were seized by the soldiers, and one poor stuttering fellow was brought before the king.

“Why have you rebelled against me?” sternly asked the king.

“For t-t-to-o m-much taxes,” was the poor fellow’s reply.

“Too much taxes” has been the cause of much trouble between people and kings. It has brought about revolutions, or changes of government. The revolutions in England, in France, and in America were all caused by too much taxes. The people will put up longer with a king who takes their lives than they will with one who takes their money.

A great deal of the old history is about kings and nobles. But in the modern history we find more about the people. In most countries they were kept under by the king, the priests, and the soldiers. But gradually they have gained a share in the affairs of government. Usually they gained their rights through bloody wars and deeds of violence, for tyrants do not give up power easily.

Let us see now how the people threw off the rule of their kings in some of the leading nations.

After the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Scotch

king, James Stuart, became King James I of England. He believed that a king had the right to make any laws he pleased, whether the people liked them or not. He also thought he had a right to tax them without their consent. James's son, Charles I, succeeded him in 1625.

In England, as we have learned, there was a body of men called the Parliament. Every county and city chose two men to represent them in this Parliament. These men made up the House of Commons. The nobles and bishops composed the House of Lords. No tax could be raised without the consent of the House of Commons.

As soon as Charles began to reign, he levied taxes on the people without asking the House of Commons. They then drew up a document called the Petition of Right, and made the king sign it. In this he agreed not to take money from the people in any way without the consent of Parliament.

But the king broke his word and taxed the people more than ever. At last they and the Parliament began war against him. The great leader in this civil war was Oliver Cromwell. For three years the war went on. Cromwell won the battles of Marston Moor and Nase'-by. The king was taken prisoner, and put to death as a "tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy."

England then became a republic with Cromwell



Charles I on the Way to Execution.

at the head of it. He was called Protector of the Commonwealth.

After his death, the son of Charles I became king. He ruled according to the laws of the country. But his brother, James II, came to the throne in 1685, and began to rule in the old way, without the consent of the Parliament.

James tried to change the religion of the country, as well as to collect taxes unlawfully. He put many people to death without a fair trial. The people soon came to hate him so much that they declared the throne vacant and made William of Orange king. William was King of Holland, and a descendant of William the Silent, who had fought against Philip II. This change of kings is called the English Revolution.

Since that event the people have gained more and more power in England, until to-day they have entire charge of the government, while the king has very little power left.

In 1775 the American colonies rebelled against another English king, George III. He tried to do what the Stuart kings had done—tax them without their consent. A long war followed, which we call our Revolutionary War. The colonies won and became the United States of America. The great leader of the colonial armies was George Washington, who took command at Boston in 1775. By March of the following year he had driven the Brit-

ish out of that city. But he was defeated in August, 1776, in the battle of Long Island, and was obliged to retreat across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. In the meantime the Declaration of Independence had been signed at Philadelphia, July 4, 1776. For five years longer the war went on until the British were surrounded at Yorktown, and their general, Lord Cornwallis, compelled to surrender. The independence of the new republic of the United States was acknowledged when a treaty of peace was made in 1783.

George III was the last English king who had very much power. The Parliament declared that the "King's power had increased too much and ought to be diminished." And they speedily diminished it.

The next uprising of the people took place in France. Again it was "too much taxes" that caused the trouble. France had been governed by kings since the time of Clovis, twelve hundred years before. The king was assisted in the government by a council of his nobles, and by an assembly of the people. We have read how all the freemen met in the time of Charlemagne to assist the king. But after Louis XI conquered his vassals he took all the power himself, and neither the nobles nor the people had anything to do in ruling the country.

From 1643 to 1715 Louis XIV had been king. The French called him the Magnificent. He ruled



Washington Crossing the Delaware.

alone. Such a government we call an absolute monarchy. He fought long and expensive wars with England, Germany, and the Netherlands. These wars made the taxes very heavy.

There were about one hundred thousand nobles and priests in France who owned one half the land. They paid no tax at all. The people who owned the other half of the land paid all the taxes. The nobles as well as the king taxed the people. It was said: "The nobles take half of the people's money and the king takes the rest."

They had to work on roads and public works without pay. They were taxed for everything they bought; and every peasant who sold any vegetables or grain had to pay a tax when he took it to market.

Black bread with a piece of onion to flavor it was their food. Besides, they must make the flour in the lord's mill and bake the bread in his oven, and pay well for the privilege. They were not allowed to build fences to protect their crops, because that interfered with the lord's hunting. At night they must stay up and thrash the frog-ponds, so that the croaking of the frogs might not disturb the lord's sleep.

During the reign of Louis XV (1715-74), things grew worse and worse. He was wicked and wasted the public money. England took away the French colonies in India and America. France

lost her fleets and armies. More taxes were laid on the suffering people until they became rebellious and desperate from starvation.

“After me comes the deluge,” said Louis to his courtiers on his deathbed. And a deluge of fire and blood did come in the shape of the French Revolution.

The next king was Louis XVI, the grandson of Louis XV. He was married to Marie Antoinette, the daughter of Maria Theresa of Austria. A boy and girl became the rulers of a country that needed the genius of a Cæsar or a Napoleon.

The king called the clergy and the nobles together to see what could be done to pay the great debt that had been brought on by the foolish wars. But they refused to pay a cent of tax, and the people could not pay any more.

Next the States General was summoned. This included, besides the nobles and the clergy, the representatives of the people, who were called the Third Estate.

The Third Estate soon took the power into their own hands, and called themselves the National Assembly. The king attempted to send them home, but they declared that they would never go till they had reformed the government of France. They drew up a constitution, or law, which took away from the king the power to levy taxes, and gave it to an assembly of the people. This government

lasted only a year. Then a new assembly, called the National Convention, met in 1792.

During this time (1789–92) the king had enlisted a bodyguard of German and Swiss soldiers. This angered the people. They took the Bastile (Bas-teel'), or state prison where the tyrannical kings had kept their prisoners, and leveled it to the ground. The king and queen were made prisoners in Paris. Once they nearly succeeded in escaping from France, but they were captured and brought back and kept as prisoners in the palace of the Tuileries (Twe'-le-riz). Many French nobles had fled from the country to get help to restore the king to power. Prussia and Austria sent armies to Paris under the Duke of Brunswick. But the Revolutionary generals defeated him.

A Paris mob attacked the Tuileries and killed the Swiss guards to the last man. Then about ten thousand *royalists*, that is, those who favored the king, were taken from the jails and killed.

When the National Convention met, they abolished the monarchy, and made France a republic. The king and queen were put to death. Now began the time that is called the Reign of Terror. During this period everybody suspected of favoring a return to the old government was beheaded. An instrument called the guil'-lo-tine was invented for cutting off heads quickly, and a special sewer

had to be made to carry off the blood. It was like the days of Marius and Sulla in ancient Rome.

In the city of Nantes (Nants), thirty thousand were killed. Killing *one* at a time took too long, so the prisoners were lined up and mowed down with cannon. Sometimes a ship would be loaded with victims and sunk in the river. Three hundred little children were drowned at one time in the river Loire.

At last Robes-pierre', the leader in the work of blood, was himself sent to the guillotine. The people came to their senses again, and the work of the mob was over.

In October, 1795, the Convention met to form another government for France. Its members had seen enough blood, but the Paris mob, "Terrorists" they were called, had not. About forty thousand men and women surrounded the palace where the Convention met. They forced back the troops, and the members were in fear of their lives.

Two years before this, when the French army had captured the city of Toulon, a young officer of the artillery had shown great skill in planting the guns. There was one man in the Convention who had been present.

"I know of a man," cried he, "who can protect us from the mob."

That man was Napoleon Bo'-na-parte, a native

of the island of Corsica. He was now twenty-six years of age. The Convention put him in command of the troops, and adjourned until the next day. During the night Napoleon planted cannon facing every street that led to the Tuileries palace and charged them with grape shot.

The next day came, and the Convention met. The mob again advanced, determined to kill the men who were trying to restore order. They were allowed to approach within a hundred yards; when boom! whiff! they were met by a hail of shot that sent them flying back in wild disorder, leaving hundreds of dead and dying on the ground. The mob and France had found a master.

The young man who thus became famous in a day was born in the island of Corsica in 1769. He was educated in a French military school and appointed to the army at the age of sixteen. In school he was noted for industry and perseverance. A hard problem was once given to his class. Napoleon shut himself in his room and worked at it for seventy-two hours, and solved it.

The Directory at once made him commander of the National Guard. It was his business to defend Paris. But the enemies of France were coming on every side, and he was first sent to Italy to meet the Austrians and Sar-din'-i-ans.

In eighteen months he had compelled both countries to make peace. He had won fourteen battles,

and taken a hundred thousand prisoners with two thousand pieces of cannon.

France now declared war against England, and Napoleon was put in command. He took a fleet and army to Egypt, intending to take possession



Napoleon at School.

of that country, and then to attack the English possessions in India.

But here he failed. Admiral Nelson destroyed his fleet in the Battle of the Nile, and Napoleon returned to Paris. The people received him joyfully. The Directory had failed to govern successfully, and Napoleon drove them out. He then took charge of affairs himself. He was called the

“First Consul.” There were two *other* consuls, but Napoleon had all the power.

Austria had begun war again, but was defeated in the battles of Ma-ren'-go and Ho-hen-lin'-den and forced to make peace.

Napoleon was made First Consul for life in 1802 by a vote of the people. In 1804 they chose him Emperor of France. From that time until the Battle of Waterloo, in 1815, he was constantly engaged in war. The story of Napoleon's life is a story of battles.

Let us see what these wars were about. It was a rule in Europe that no one country must be allowed to become *too* strong, for fear it might seize upon its weaker neighbors. This was called keeping the balance of power. The balance of power was now in favor of France. Napoleon had seized lands in Italy and Germany which did not belong to France, and the other countries joined together to make him give it up.

England, Russia, Austria, and Sweden made the first great attempt to overthrow him.

To fight England, he must invade that country. So he gathered a great army at Bou-logne', and was only waiting for his ships to come to take his army across the English Channel. But Nelson destroyed his fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar, and Napoleon was obliged to give up the attempt.

He then marched his army into Austria, where



The Battle of Marengo.

he defeated one hundred thousand Russians and Austrians at Aus'-ter-litz. It was his greatest victory.

In 1806 Prussia joined the alliance against him. In two battles he crushed that country and took possession of Berlin.

While here he visited the tomb of the famous fighter, Frederick the Great. The sword of the great general was kept suspended over his grave.

Napoleon took it down and said:

"I will send this to France as a relic."

Said one of his generals, "If I were you I should keep it for myself."

"Have I not then a sword of my own?" asked the emperor.

The next year (1807) Russia was completely overwhelmed at the Battle of Fried'-land and compelled to ask for peace.

The emperor and the czar met on a raft. "Do you hate England?" asked Napoleon.

"As much as you do," answered the czar.

"Then," said Napoleon, "peace is soon made."

He next began war against Spain and Portugal to get control of those countries. This war was called the "Peninsular War."

England sent an army under Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington) to the aid of these countries. After a long struggle Napoleon's generals were defeated and driven out.

During the Peninsular War Russia had broken

her agreement with Napoleon, so he invaded that country with half a million of soldiers. The Russians allowed him to march as far as Moscow, and they then burned the city. But they would not fight him. They destroyed all the food, and made the country through which he must march a desert.

Winter came on and Napoleon had to retreat to France. In that terrible retreat he lost three hundred thousand men.

Again his enemies joined against him and defeated him at Leip'-sic. He then resigned the empire and went to the little island of Elba to live.

But he broke his agreement to live a private life and escaped to France. He soon raised a fresh army and hurried to meet the English and Prussians in Belgium.

At Waterloo he met the English under the Duke of Wellington. After a stubborn battle he was defeated and his army driven from the field.

He was not allowed to escape again, but was taken in an English vessel to the island of St. Helena. There he died, May 1, 1821.

Louis XVIII, a brother of Louis XVI, was now placed upon the throne a second time. He was succeeded by Charles X. Charles was driven out in 1830, and Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, was chosen king. He was driven out in 1848 and a republic established for the second time. Louis Napoleon, nephew of the great general, was chosen president.



The French Army Retreating from Moscow.

THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW LANDS

AFTER the route to the Indies was discovered by the Portuguese, and a new world found by Columbus, the nations of Europe made haste to send ships and colonists to the new lands. Although these lands were occupied already by other races, it was considered right for Christian nations to drive out the heathen and take their lands. The Portuguese were the first to establish trading ports along the coast of Africa. They also settled in the islands of Java, Sumatra, and in the Moluccas. When Philip II conquered Portugal all these colonies of Portugal became Spanish.

The Dutch were famous merchants and ship-builders, and when Philip made war on them on account of their religion, they sent their ships to the East and seized all the Spanish settlements. Soon all the tea, coffee, and spices of the Indies were in the hands of the Dutch merchants, and they grew rich by selling them to the nations of Europe.

The Dutch East India Company employed Henry Hudson to look for a shorter road to the Indies. He sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and entered the Delaware and Hudson rivers. He took possession of all the land between these rivers for Holland. They named it New Netherlands.

The English king, Henry VII, sent out John Cabot to find a western route to the Indies. Cabot sailed along the coast of North America and claimed all that part of it lying between Nova Scotia and the Spanish possession on the south.

Columbus had discovered the West India islands and the coast of South America. Ponce de Leon found the coast of Florida. Cortez conquered Mexico, and Pizarro, Peru. And so, the southern half of the New World came into the possession of Spain. The Pope had divided the new lands between Spain and Portugal by drawing a line straight around the globe, near the fifteenth meridian. This gave Brazil and the East Indies to Portugal. But all the Western world belonged to Spain.

But France, England, and Holland paid no attention to the Pope's division of the world. It is told of Francis I, the French king, that he asked Philip to "show him the will of Father Adam by which the New World was divided between Spain and Portugal." The will was not found, evidently, for Francis, too, sent out explorers, who sailed up the St. Lawrence River and discovered the great fisheries along the coast of Newfoundland. This part of the New World became known as Canada, and was settled by the French.

The trade with the mainland of India was first

in the control of Portugal and Holland. But France and England soon took the greater part of it from them. The English East India Company was established by Queen Elizabeth in 1600. The merchants of this company built trading stations at Ma-dras' and Cal-cut'-ta in India.

From 1689 to 1782 France and England were almost constantly at war. These wars were due to the ambition of the kings of France, Louis XIV and Louis XV, to make France more powerful than the other nations. The war in America was decided by the capture of Quebec in 1759. General Wolfe and his army climbed the steep cliffs above the city during the night. In the morning they waited for the French to attack them on the Plains of Abraham. Montcalm, the French commander, led his men against the foe, but the French were defeated, and both Montcalm and Wolfe were killed. A single monument has been built to the memory of both.

Only two years before this, in 1757, Robert Clive had won the battle of Plassey in India. This made the English supreme in the Valley of the Ganges River, the richest part of India. The English continued to take town after town until now they rule the whole of India. They owe their vast empire in America and India to James Wolfe and Robert Clive more than to any other two men. Peace was made in 1763, and England made



Battle of Plassey.

France give up nearly all her colonies in America and India.

The English also gradually drove the Dutch out of their African colonies. In 1806 they seized Cape Colony, and the Dutch moved into Natal. Then England took this also. Finally the Boers (Boors), as the Dutch were called, crossed the Vaal River and settled the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. These colonies were also taken by England at the end of the Great Boer War in 1901. British East Africa, Egypt, and the Sudan, are also under the control of England.

About 1775 the English began to settle Australia. Gold was found there in 1851, and the country grew rapidly. Sheep were found to thrive in the dry climate, and stock-raising has become the leading occupation. The English have also settlements in the islands of the Pacific, in the East Indies, and on the coast of China. About one-fifth of the land surface of the globe is under the control of Great Britain.

When the power of the Turks began to grow less, France crossed the Mediterranean to attack the pirates who had for several centuries made that sea unsafe for merchants. She took Algiers and kept it. Later she seized other lands in Northern Africa and now the whole coast, except Egypt, is under her control.

The discovery of the New World and the In-

dies came at a time when many people in Europe were most anxious to find new homes. The Spanish were led to go to the colonies in America by the discovery of gold and silver in Mexico and Peru. The Dutch were content with the profits of the spice trade. Great coffee plantations grew up in Java and Sumatra, and the Dutch farmers found them very profitable. The French began a valuable fur trade with the Indians, and the fisheries kept thousands of men busy.

The religious wars in Europe drove a multitude of settlers to the New World. Protestants from Germany, France, and England emigrated to America. During the reign of the tyrannical English king Charles I, the Pilgrims and Puritans left England and settled in Massachusetts. The Quakers and Catholics also were persecuted, and found homes in Pennsylvania and Maryland. When Cromwell ruled, the friends of the Stuart kings, called Royalists or Cavaliers, came in thousands and built up the Virginia colony.

Thousands of people in England were out of work. The land had been taken away from the farmers by the landlords and turned into sheep pastures. This left many laborers out of employment, and they were glad to find a home in the American colonies.

The Thirty Years' War in Germany compelled many Germans to leave the country. The Hugue-

nots, or French Protestants, were persecuted and driven out of France by the Catholic kings. Many went into Germany and Holland, and still more found homes in America. All of these causes brought thousands of good, industrious settlers to the new lands.

The new colonies grew rapidly, and New England, New France, New Netherlands, and New Spain added much honor and wealth to the old countries of Europe. After a time many of the colonies across the ocean broke away from the mother countries and made themselves into independent nations.

THE NEW GERMAN EMPIRE

A GREAT deal has been said in this book about a German Empire. The old empire was a disorderly empire, where rival kings were constantly engaged in war. The emperor always had hard work to keep his vassals in order. But the German Empire of to-day is a united, orderly, and well-governed nation. It was established in 1871, and the King of Prussia became the emperor. Prussia was the youngest of the German states, but became the strongest one. In this chapter we want to learn something about the growth of Prussia and how the new German Empire was formed.

The old German Empire was always exposed to the attacks of savage people on the eastern border. It was the custom of the emperors to appoint their bravest soldiers to rule over the *mark*, or border land, in order to keep out invaders. This officer was called markgraf, or count of the border. In the times of Charlemagne, there was a border state called the *ost mark*, or eastern border. Later this state was called *ost reich*, or Austria, meaning eastern kingdom.

The markgraf was allowed to conquer as much of the enemy's land as he could and add it to his mark. So it came about that the border state became the largest and most powerful of the empire.

In the twelfth century, the emperor appointed a daring soldier, Albert the Bear, to govern the north mark. He took the city of Branitu from the Wends, a Slavonic race, and from it he called his mark, Bran'-den-burg. When Albert's family died out, Brandenburg was given to Frederick of Ho-hen-zoll'-ern, an ancestor of the present German emperor. In 1356 the Markgraf of Brandenburg obtained the right to vote at the election of the emperor. This gave him the title of Elector.

The greatest of the Electors of Brandenburg was Frederick William, a Hohenzollern, who began to rule in 1640. In return for help which he gave to the King of Poland in a war, he received the Duchy of Prussia. This had been taken from the Slavonic tribes by the Teutonic knights, when they returned from the Crusades. Frederick, the son of Frederick William, was crowned at Königsberg, in 1688, as the first King of Prussia.

The next king was a rough, despotic man also named Frederick William. He loved two things above all else, money and big soldiers. He had a regiment, called the Potsdam giants, numbering two thousand four hundred men. Some of them were eight feet tall. He hunted all Europe for big men, and wherever he heard of one, he induced him in some way to join his famous regiment.

He was always busy, rushing about, and look-

ing over his shoulder right and left. If he saw anyone idle, or lounging about, he would give him a rap with his stick, and tell him to "be off and get to work!" He especially despised fine and showy clothes, and anyone who met him dressed in this way was pretty certain to get a caning. Though rough in his ways, he was very just, and he would not suffer the poor people to be wronged or injured in any way.

His little son Frederick, who was to become Frederick the Great, had a harder time than most boys. He was fond of pictures and music—things which his father despised. He had a flute, but woe to him if his father caught him playing on it. The king wanted his son to study history, geography, mathematics, and about guns and war, for he intended to make a soldier of him. But Frederick liked Latin and French—languages which his father could see no use for.

At last Frederick and his tutor, Kat'-te, planned to run away to England to the court of his uncle, George II. But the plan was discovered. The angry old king hanged Katte, and he came very near hanging Frederick too. For a long time he was kept in prison and fed on bread and water. When his sister Mina was married, he was released, and his father seemed glad to have him about again.

When Frederick William died, in 1740, Prus-

sia was one of the strongest states in Europe. He left a well-filled treasury and a well-disciplined army of eighty thousand men.

Frederick—of course he was not called the Great till after his death—soon showed that he had a genius for war. His first war began at once. The emperor, Charles VI of Austria, had left his throne to his daughter, Maria Theresa. Being a woman, the neighboring kings hoped to rob her of part of her possessions. In those days "right was the might of the strongest." Frederick wanted Si-le'-sia, as it bordered on his kingdom, so he marched his army into it and took possession. France, Spain, and Bavaria also made ready to seize other provinces.

Thus beset with enemies, Maria Theresa appealed to the Hungarian nobles. Dressed in mourning, with crown on her head and sword at her side, and carrying her infant son in her arms, she appeared before the Diet. She was a beautiful woman, and her beauty, her tears, and the pathetic and eloquent address she made, stirred the chivalrous Hungarian blood. In the old-time manner they clashed their swords upon their scabbards, and with uplifted blades, swore that they would die for their queen.

England and Sardinia joined Austria in the war that followed. But when it ended, Silesia remained in the hands of Frederick. Prussia was

never known to give up anything that she had once taken.

But Maria Theresa determined to have revenge and to get Silesia. During the next eight years she was busy enlisting allies on her side, while Frederick enlarged and disciplined his army. Then the Seven Years' War began. France, Russia, Poland, Saxony, and Sweden fought with Austria, while Frederick had only the half-hearted support of England.

Frederick, surrounded by enemies, attacked them with a vigor and success that earned him the title of Great. He beat the French at Ross'-bach, the Austrians at Leuthen (Loi'-ten), and the Russians at Zorn'-dorf. But then his fortune failed him. He lost two battles. The Russians and Austrians defeated him so badly at Kun'-ners-dorf that he wrote to his minister, "All is lost." The Russians took Berlin. He defeated the Austrians again, but his treasury and his army were exhausted, and Spain, too, joined his enemies.

At this point Peter III, a friend to Frederick, came to the throne of Russia. Peter said that he and Frederick together would "conquer the world." They won a victory, but Peter was murdered, and Russia called home her troops.

By this time Frederick's enemies were also exhausted and ready for peace. It was made at Paris in 1763. It was this treaty that stripped France



Frederick the Great at the Battle of Leuthen.

of her colonies. Frederick had won a reputation as the greatest general in Europe, and Silesia is still a part of the German Empire.

Frederick ruled Prussia until 1786. He was a friend of the American colonies during the struggle for independence, and sent a sword to General George Washington. In his love for the common people, and in respect for their rights, he was like his father. In the beautiful street, "Unter den Linden," in Berlin, is a splendid bronze statue of Frederick on horseback. A copy of this statue was presented to the United States in 1904, and now stands in the city of Washington.

During the wars of Napoleon, Prussia was utterly crushed by the battles of Jena (Ya'-na) and Auerstädt (Ou'-er-stet). Half of her possessions were taken away and given to Napoleon's brother, Jerome, who was made King of West-pha'-li-a. But after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo by the English and Prussians, Prussia got back all that was lost.

There were at this time (1815) thirty-nine German states, still separate and independent. But there was a congress or diet, composed of delegates from all these states, that had power to settle disputes among them, and could act on matters that concerned them all alike.

The German people felt that the states ought to be joined together into one nation, instead of

having thirty-nine nations. The leading German states were Prussia and Austria. Since the time of Frederick the Great they had been enemies. If the German states were to be united, it was clear that one of these rival states must remain outside the union. It was like the case of two quarrelsome families. One house would not be big enough to hold both.

In 1848 Austria had a war with her Hungarian subjects, who had revolted under the lead of Louis Kossuth. In early life Kossuth had been a lawyer and editor of a newspaper. The peasants of Hungary were serfs, and the country was governed harshly by Austria. Kossuth wanted the peasants to be made free, and the people to have more rights. He had once been put into prison for printing a newspaper, and he wanted a free press.

In 1848 there was a great uprising of the people through all Europe, demanding freedom and a share in the government. Kossuth at this time was a member of the Hungarian Diet. He now demanded an independent government for Hungary. He became the head of the nation, raised armies, and made ready for war. In 1849 Hungary was declared independent of Austria. He won several victories over the Austrians, and would have become another Washington if Russia had not come to the aid of his enemies. A Russian army joined

the Austrians, and Kossuth was forced to surrender, August 13, 1849.

Kossuth fled into Turkey, and afterwards visited England and America. He was welcomed



Louis Kossuth.

everywhere as a patriot and the hero of his country.

We come now to the work of the greatest of German statesmen, Otto von Bismarck. It was he who united the German states and founded the

German Empire. The King of Austria was president of the German Diet, but Prussia was really the strongest state.

In 1861 William I became King of Prussia, and soon afterwards Bismarck became his Prime Minister. Bismarck had been a member of the Diet and minister to Russia and France. He was a shrewd, bold man, but he knew how to work secretly for his own ends, too. He had fully made up his mind to make Prussia the head of the German states, and to drive Austria out of German affairs.

Year after year he added soldiers to the army until he had nearly half a million trained men. He made a secret treaty with the King of Sardinia to help against Austria, in case of war. He formed a new plan of government for Germany, leaving Austria out.

When two nations want to fight, they will soon find something to fight about. In this case the quarrel was about the two provinces, Hol'-stein and Schles'-wig. These had been taken from Denmark, and Prussia and Austria could not agree as to the division of them. Austria wanted the question to be settled by the Diet, but Bismarck sent twenty thousand soldiers into Holstein and said that "only blood and iron could settle the question."

The war called the "Austro-Prussian War" now began. Von Moltke, the commander of the German armies, had the war all planned out before

it began, and everything worked to perfection. The states that were the allies of Austria were compelled to remain neutral. King George of Hano-



Bismarck.

ver refused, and his army was surrounded and taken prisoners.

The three Prussian armies then took up their march toward Vienna. At the village of Sa-do'-wa they met the Austrian army. Several victories had

been won, but the battle at Sadowa was decisive. A half million of men fought until noon without victory on either side. Then a fresh Prussian army arrived, and the Austrians were driven from the field. By the treaty of peace that King Francis Joseph was forced to make, Austria was no longer to take any part in the affairs of Germany.

A union of the chief German states called the North German Union was now formed. The Prussian King was to be president of the union and command the armies. The king and Bismarck already knew where they would soon have need of armies.

Louis Napoleon was elected president of the second French republic in 1848. This was called the year of revolutions, because there were so many of them. He made himself emperor in 1852, and was called Napoleon III. He saw how strong Prussia was growing, and hoped to be able to check it. He was anxious to extend France to the river Rhine. But when the French ambassador spoke to Bismarck about giving up the rest of Alsace to France, the man of "blood and iron" very gruffly refused to think of it.

In 1870 something happened that brought on war between France and Germany. The crown of Spain was offered to a member of the House of Hohenzollern, that is, the Prussian royal family.

Prince Leopold, to whom it was offered, re-

fused to accept. But Napoleon III wanted King William to promise that no relative of his should occupy the Spanish throne. The French minister made this demand of the king on a public street at Ems. The king told him "to see the ministry at Berlin." At Berlin, Bismarck dismissed the ambassador with a rude refusal.

France began to call her armies together at once. Every German state joined with Prussia, and a million of German soldiers were soon in the field. They were eager to avenge the wrongs that the first Napoleon had brought upon them fifty years before. The war with Austria lasted only seven weeks. This war lasted only eight. The French were beaten everywhere. The decisive battle was fought at Sedan, where the French had to surrender ninety thousand men. Two months later they surrendered their main army, one hundred and seventy-six thousand men. Paris was then besieged and taken.

Napoleon had surrendered his sword to King William at Sedan. He did not dare return to Paris, but at the close of the war fled to England. His empire was over, and for the third time France became a republic.

On January 18, 1871, in the palace of the French kings at Versailles', King William of Prussia was crowned Emperor of Germany. The German states were at last united to form a German nation.

HOW ITALY BECAME ONE NATION

ALL during the Middle Ages, that is, from 476 to 1492, Italy had no king ruling the whole country like England or France. But each city had its own duke or prince. Rome and the near-by territory was ruled by the Pope. This state of affairs made the country weak. The stronger nations, especially Spain, France, and Austria, overran Italy, seized upon such of the cities as they wanted, and added them to their own possessions.

During the first half of the fourteenth century an attempt was made to unite the parts of Italy. At this time the residence of the popes was in France, and Rome was in great confusion, owing to the quarrels of leading families. These families built strong castles and behaved like the feudal barons of Germany.

Nicolo di Rienzi is the hero of this first attempt to unite Italy. His brother, a boy, had been killed in the strife of the nobles, and he wished to be revenged upon them. Rienzi was a persuasive orator, and he called the people together in secret meetings. He asked them to meet him in Rome on a certain day. On that day he appeared before them and read to them a form of government and laws that he had prepared. The people shouted their approval. They chose him chief ruler, and called

him Tribune, after the old Roman officer of the people.

For a time Rienzi ruled Rome well. Then he planned to bring under his government the other Italian cities. Many of them favored his plans. But the success he had seems to have turned his head. He began to take on the appearance of royalty. He called himself high-sounding titles, as, August Tribune, Defender of Italy, and Friend of Mankind. Finally, he had himself publicly crowned with seven crowns.

Soon the clergy, the nobles, and many of the people turned against him and drove him out of Italy. Affairs in Rome became as bad as before. After a time Rienzi returned. But he soon began to levy high taxes, and behaved as foolishly as before. Then the people rebelled again. This time they pursued him to the capital and stabbed him to death. Petrarch, the poet who led in the revival of learning, said of him:

“I loved his virtues. I praised his ends, and I looked forward to the rule of Rome over a united and happy Italy at peace with the world.”

During the rule of the free cities of Italy, more great men flourished than at any time in the world's history. Athens, in the time of Pericles, is the only city that can compare with Florence in the days of Rienzi. The greatest artists and sculptors, poets, and historians were born in that city. Dan'-te,

Raph'-a-el, and Michael Angelo were some of the greatest artists and poets.

In geography and science, too, Italy took the lead. To prove this we need only name Columbus, Vesputius, and Cabot among the discoverers.

In the early times man thought the earth to be fixed and immovable, and that the sun and the stars revolved around it. An early astronomer, Ptolemy (Tol'-e-my), had taught this, and for many centuries men believed it. Toward the end of the sixteenth century a German astronomer, Co-per'-nicus, taught that the sun is the center around which the earth and the planets revolve, and that the stars are fixed.

This idea of Copernicus was taught by the most famous of Italian scientific men, Gal-i-le'-o. The story of Galileo teaches us how ignorant and stubborn the people, and especially the priests, of his time were. The first discoveries of Galileo were made while he was a medical student at the University of Pi'-sa. There is a famous tower there that leans to one side on account of the foundation having settled unequally. It is known as the "leaning" tower. From the top of this tower Galileo would drop objects of different weight and material. He found that two objects of the same size and shape would strike the ground at the same time, no matter if one weighed more than the other.

He observed the swaying of a large chandelier

in the cathedral. It suggested to him the pendulum, which is used in measuring time. But Galileo's greatest work was the invention of the telescope, an instrument that makes distant objects seem near. With it he discovered the moons of Jupiter, and watched them revolve around that planet. He also saw the black spots on the sun, and could tell by the movement of these spots that the sun turns on an axis like the earth.

He was the first to see the mountains and valleys on the surface of the moon. The telescope enabled him to see thousands of stars that could not be seen by the naked eye. At the time that Galileo lived, it was the custom of the church to settle all questions about geography and science by consulting the Bible and the writings of the priests.

If a man believed or taught anything not found in these books, he was likely to be punished for heresy. He might be tortured and imprisoned, or even put to death.

Galileo was soon charged with heresy and brought before the Inquisition. This was a court of three men, who were chosen to try cases of heresy. He was found guilty of teaching that the earth moved around the sun, and of other heresies. As he promised not to teach these further, he was released. But he did not keep his promise, and soon after wrote a book supporting the ideas of Copernicus. He was then put in prison again. He



Galileo Examining the Moons of Jupiter with his Telescope.

kneled before the judges and solemnly swore never to teach again that the earth moves. The story is told that when he rose from his knees, he said:

“ It *does* move, though, for all that! ”

Galileo became nearly blind in his old age. John Milton, the greatest of English poets, went to see him when a young man traveling in Italy. The old philosopher took pleasure in explaining to the young Milton the mystery of the sun, the planets, and their motions.

Before his death, in 1642, Italy had become the most wicked country in Europe. Nowhere else were there so many murders, poisonings, and revolutions. Rulers were treacherous, and no man's word could be trusted.

Much of this wickedness was caused by bad government. Napoleon put the Pope in prison and added Italy to the French Empire, but after his defeat it was given back to its former owners. Venice and the northern part belonged to Austria; the Pope ruled the central part; the south was called the Kingdom of Naples, and was ruled by a king of the French royal house, the Bourbons. The northwestern part, called Piedmont, was part of the domain of Victor Emmanuel I, King of Sardinia.

The French had given Italy a taste of liberty, and when the old rulers began to rule harshly, there were soon mutterings of discontent.

Plots and societies were soon formed to overthrow the tyrants. Two of the most noted leaders of the patriots were Joseph Mazzini (Mat-se'-ne) and Joseph Ga-ri-bal'-di. They founded a secret



Garibaldi.

society called Young Italy, whose object was to fight for the freedom and unity of Italy whenever and wherever the chance came. Another older society was the Car-bo-na'-ri, or charcoal-burners.

These societies stirred up many revolts, but all attempts to obtain rights for the people were put down by the troops of Austria. Mazzini and Garibaldi had to flee from Italy to save their lives. Garibaldi spent fourteen years in South America, where he married a Spanish girl, Anita. In peace or in war, this devoted wife was always with him until her death.

In 1849 he returned to Rome where he stirred up the people to resist the French and the Austrians. When he saw that he was sure to be defeated, he led five thousand of his men through the enemy to join the Sardinian king, Victor Emmanuel II, in the north. The Austrians triumphed again over conquered Italy.

Victor Emmanuel had for his minister a shrewd statesman named Count Ca-vour'. Cavour induced Napoleon III to help drive Austria out of Italy. Sardinia had helped France in the Crimean War (p. 220), and now France returned the favor. The armies of France and Sardinia won two great victories over the Austrians at Ma-gen'-ta and at Sol-fe-ri'-no. Austria gave up all her Italian possessions, except Venice. That city and territory she was soon to lose also.

In 1860 came one of the romantic adventures of Garibaldi. The people of Naples and of Sicily had rebelled against their king. Gathering a thousand of his men, the hero of the "red shirt" sailed

from Genoa for Sicily. He drove the troops of the king out of Sicily. Then he crossed for Naples, where the people welcomed him as their saviour. A vote was taken, and the people of Naples and Sicily all agreed to join the kingdom of Victor Emmanuel II.

The next step in uniting Italy was made in 1866, at the close of the Seven Weeks' War. Cavour and Bismarck had agreed to make Austria give up Venice, and it was done.

The final step was the most important of all. The capital had been first at Turin, then at Florence. Rome was still held by the Pope, who was protected by a French army.

When the Franco-Prussian War began, in 1870, Napoleon III withdrew his troops from Rome to fight Germany. Victor Emmanuel at once gave notice to the Pope that Rome would now be made the capital of the Italian kingdom. The people of Rome voted to join the new kingdom. Thus the domains of the popes, over which they had ruled since the time of Pepin, King of the Franks, were taken from them. It was the last stroke, Victor Emmanuel now ruled over a united Italy; from the Alps to the Mediterranean his rule was gladly accepted.

THE TURKS

THE city of Constantine on the Bosphorus came into the hands of the Turks in 1453, and is still a Mohammedan city. Five times each day from the



Calling to Prayer.

tower of each of the five hundred mosques of the city, the voice of the muezzin, or priest, may be heard calling the people to prayer:

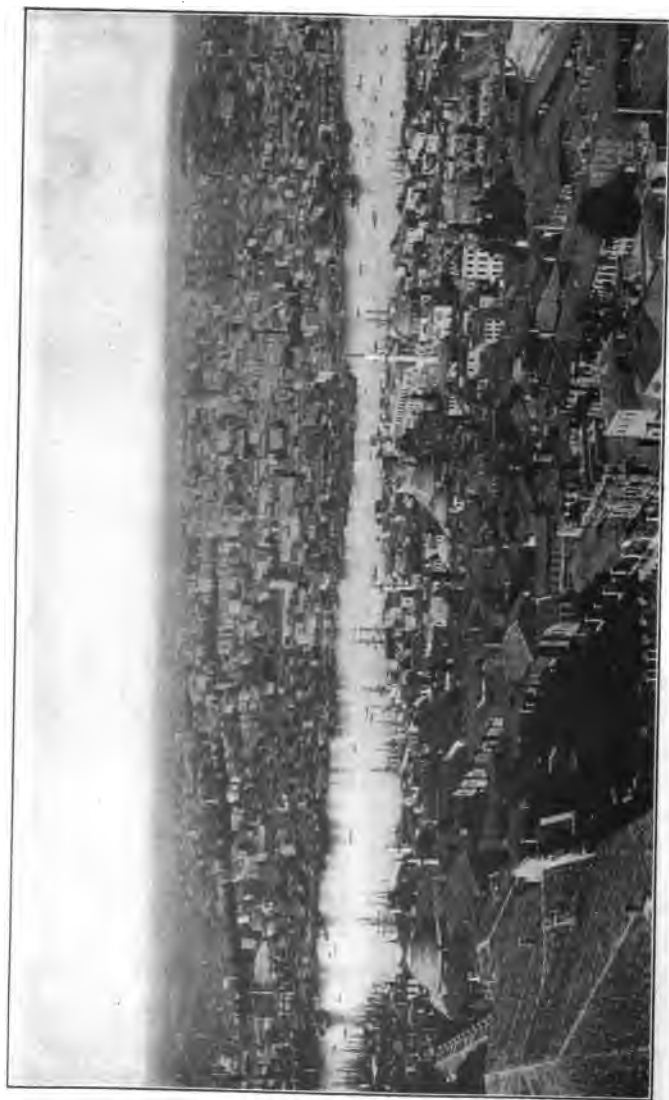
“God is great; there is but one God; Moham-

med is the prophet of God. Prayer is better than sleep; come to prayer!"

Every good Mohammedan then turns his face toward Mecca, the birthplace of the prophet, and repeats a prayer.

The Turks are the only people of Europe who are not Christians. They have always illtreated the Christians who live in their country. This persecution has led to many wars, which have ended in taking away from Turkey several of her provinces. The Turks would have been driven out of Europe long ago if the Christian nations could have agreed as to who should have their capital city.

In some way Constantinople is the most important city in Europe. One reason why it is important is because it controls the entrance to the Black Sea. Then, the nation that owns Constantinople can send ships to any part of the eastern Mediterranean, and to the mouth of the Nile. The Suez Canal has become the great highway to the Indies. More ships pass through this canal than any other. England depends upon it to reach India, her greatest colony. Now, a strong nation in control of Constantinople and the Black Sea could easily send war vessels and seize the Suez Canal. When Turkey was a strong nation, she would not allow any ships of other nations to sail on the eastern Mediterranean. Now she is a weak nation and cannot do this.



Constantinople.

Russia has made many attempts to drive out the Turks and get Constantinople for herself. But England and France have prevented this, for fear that Russia would try to shut their ships out of the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal.

The meaning of the "Eastern Question" is this: if the Turks are driven out of Europe, what nation shall have Constantinople?

In 1820 Turkey was greatly weakened by a revolt among the imperial guard of the sultan. This body of men was called the jan'-i-za-ries. Several times they had rebelled and put the sultan to death. At last Mohammed II determined to get rid of them. Eight thousand were penned up in their barracks and burned. Twenty thousand more were executed or exiled. The rest were disbanded and scattered.

In 1825 Greece rebelled against Turkey and gained her independence. The hero of this war was Marco Bozzaris (bot'za-res), who is sometimes called the Leonidas of modern Greece. His greatest deed was a night attack on the Turkish army, in which he routed them and captured their camp. It was his last battle.

"They fought like brave men, long and well ;
They piled that ground with Moslem slain ;
They conquered, but Bozzaris fell
Bleeding at every vein.

“Bozzaris, with the storied brave,
Greece nurtured in her glory's prime,
Rest thee ! There is no prouder grave,
Even in her own proud clime.

“We tell thy doom without a sigh,
For thou art Freedom's now, and Fame's,
One of the few—the immortal names,
That were not born to die.”

Turkey had been further weakened after the Greek rebellion. Me'-hem-et Ali, the sultan's viceroy in Egypt, had rebelled against his lord. He had destroyed the sultan's fleet and robbed him of half his possessions. Mehemet even threatened Constantinople. If England and other European nations had not stopped him, he would have made himself master of the whole Turkish Empire.

The bad treatment of the Christians living in Turkey led to several wars with Russia. In 1853 Nicholas I, the Czar of Russia, proposed to England to drive out the Turks and divide up the country between them. When England refused, the czar began a war against Turkey “to protect the Christians,” he said. But England and France thought what he wanted was Constantinople, and they joined the Turks against him. This war is called the Cri-me'-an War, because it was fought mainly on the peninsula of Cri-me'-a.

The French and English defeated the Russians in nearly every battle.

At the battle of Bal-a-kla'-va occurred the famous "charge of the light brigade," about which the English poet Tennyson has written a splendid poem. This brigade was ordered to recapture some guns which had been taken from the English. But by mistake they attempted to take a battery two miles away, in the very center of the Russian army.

"Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of death
Rode the six hundred.
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!' he said:
Into the valley of death
Rode the six hundred."

"'Forward, the Light Brigade!'
Was there a man dismayed?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the Valley of Death
Rode the six hundred."

"Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered:

Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

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The Capture of Sebastopol.

“When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honor the charge they made!
Honor the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!”

This war was ended when the Russian stronghold of Se-bas'-to-pol was taken. The Russians

agreed not to keep a war fleet in the Black Sea, and not to interfere any more in the affairs of Turkey.

In 1876 Turkey massacred thousands of Christians in Bulgaria. This led to another war with Russia. Turkey lost Bulgaria and two other provinces. This loss has made the Turkish possessions in Europe very small. Perhaps some day they may be driven back into Asia, from where they came.

THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

ALL the colonies in America, before 1776, had been ruled by governors sent out by the mother countries. In that year the thirteen English colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America declared themselves independent of Great Britain and became the United States of America.

A republic is a country where the people themselves choose the men who govern it. The United States was the first republic to be formed in the New World.

The example of the United States in freeing itself from the rule of a king was soon felt in both Europe and in the Spanish colonies of America. The French soldiers who fought with Washington went home to take part in the French revolution. The French king was put to death and France became a republic. But the French did not act as wisely as the American colonists. They had had no experience in governing themselves, while the Americans were accustomed to manage their own affairs in the towns and cities.

Since the French people could not bring about order, they fell under the control of a man who could keep order, Napoleon Bonaparte.

In 1808 Napoleon conquered Spain and made his brother, Joseph, king of that country.

The Spanish colonies in America refused to submit to the rule of a French king and revolted under the lead of Simon Bolivar.

Bolivar was born in Caracas, Venezuela. When a young man, he visited the tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon. He resolved to follow the example of the great patriot and devote his life to obtaining the independence of Venezuela.

In 1811 he called a meeting of the citizens of Caracas. A declaration of independence was signed, and Fran-cis'-co Miran'-da, an older patriot than Bolivar, was made chief. A few days after this a fearful earthquake destroyed the city and killed several thousand of Miranda's soldiers.

The Spanish governor had ten thousand men sent from Spain, and he soon got his power back. Miranda was sent to Spain where he died in prison. But Bolivar escaped and lived to see his country free and independent.

He at first fled to the island of Jamaica. A few years later he returned to South America. He was made dictator at Lima in 1823. Peru and Venezuela joined forces. They defeated the Spanish army on the lofty plain of A-ya-cu'-cho, twelve thousand feet above the sea. A new republic was formed and named Bolivia in honor of the leader.

Soon afterwards the republics of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela were formed.

A few years before this, in 1818, Chile and the

Argentine Republic were organized. Ten years later Paraguay and Uruguay were separated from Argentina and became distinct republics. Brazil remained an empire under the rule of Don Pedro II till 1889. It then became a republic.

In Mexico there was a long and bloody war with Spain. The hero of Mexican independence was I-tur-bi'-de, who finally defeated the Spanish in 1821. Mexico was declared independent and made into a republic in 1824.

Napoleon III attempted to seize Mexico in 1861 and make an Austrian noble, Max-i-mil'-i-an, emperor. But the United States interfered, and declared that she would protect the young republics in America. The French troops sailed back to France, and Maximilian was captured and shot by Mexican soldiers.

During this same period (1808-21) the little states of Central America also drove out their Spanish governors, and began to govern themselves as republics. We might call the time between our own Revolution and 1824 the revolutionary age, since there were no less than sixteen new republics formed by revolutions during this time.

NEW JAPAN AND THE FAR EAST

DURING the year 1904, the whole world was astonished that a little nation of little men should defeat in battle the great Russian armies and navies. The Russian soldier is a giant compared with the Japanese soldier. But to-day it is skill and not strength that counts.

Japan is the only nation in the world that still believes that its ruler is descended from a god. The present mikado is descended from Jim-mu Ten-no, the first mikado, who began to rule 660 B.C. At that time the people thought that the mikado became a god when he died.

The old religion of Japan was a worship of dead kings and heroes. The war god of Japan is O'-jin, who was once a noted warrior. The Japanese take great pride in soldierly qualities. They are brave and hardy. They are very courteous and dignified in their intercourse with strangers. Every man is ready to fight and to give his life for his country in case of need.

In the early times Japan was greatly troubled by the wars of rival kings and chiefs. It was like the condition of Germany in the Middle Ages, when the nobles were often stronger than the king.

The warlike chiefs, or shoguns, at last got control of the government, and the mikados retired to

private life. It was not until 1868 that they were restored to their old power and position.

When the Tartars overran China and made themselves masters of that country, they tried also to take Japan. The Tartar emperor sent a great fleet in 1281 to make the conquest of the islands. But a typhoon, or fierce tropical storm, swept over the sea and completely wrecked the Tartar fleet.

Gradually the Japanese established a feudal system. The shogun was the chief lord, and his vassals were called dai'-mi-os. They ruled over the various provinces, or divisions, of the empire. As the Shogun, and after 1868 the mikado, had all the power, the government was an absolute monarchy. But in 1889 a constitution was adopted, giving the people the right to vote and to take part in making laws. Japan is therefore now a constitutional monarchy, like England or Germany.

In 1855 the President of the United States sent Commodore Perry to Japan to make a treaty which would allow Americans to visit that country and trade with the merchants there. This was the first time that Japan consented to allow foreigners to come into their country. After the treaty was made we sent a Mr. Harris to Japan as minister.

A minister is one who looks after a country's interests in a foreign land. Mr. Harris was received with great honor. Men were sent ahead to see that the roads and bridges over which he must

pass were in order. People were asked to sweep the streets clean in front of their houses. And they were forbidden to gather in crowds to look at the procession, as this in Japan is not considered polite.

One of the mikado's palaces was given him to live in during his stay at the capital. Every street that he passed through and every place that he visited was selected beforehand, so that everywhere he might receive every courtesy and kindness.

The most wonderful thing about Japan is the quickness with which she has learned the ways of civilized nations. Every year she has sent out five hundred young men to England, France, Germany, and the United States. These young men remained in foreign countries to get an education. They studied the armies and navies of these countries. They studied the laws, occupations, and the manufactures of the people among whom they lived. When they returned to their own land they taught their countrymen the best things they had learned.

The Japanese soon began to make the articles that they brought from abroad. They learned to build their own war vessels, to make their own cannon, rifles, and ammunition. They drilled their soldiers after the German method, because they thought that the best. They built railroads and telegraph and telephone lines. During the fifty years since Commodore Perry visited them, they

have made as much progress as other nations have made in two hundred years.

They are called the Yankees of the East, because they are so ingenious; they are called the French of the East, because they are so polite; and some one has called them the English of the East, because they are so persevering. They have taken



Japanese Girls Reeling Silk in a Factory.

to themselves all the good qualities of the other nations.

About a year ago Japan began a war against Russia, because that country did not keep an agreement she made to take her armies out of China. Russia despised the Japanese, calling them yellow dwarfs. But in a few months the "dwarfs" sank

all the war vessels that Russia had in that part of the world. By stubborn perseverance and skillful fighting they took from Russia the strong fortress at Port Arthur that Russia declared could not be taken. The Japanese defeated Russia's armies in many battles by their superior skill, and drove her out of China. Japan is now counted among the great nations of the world.



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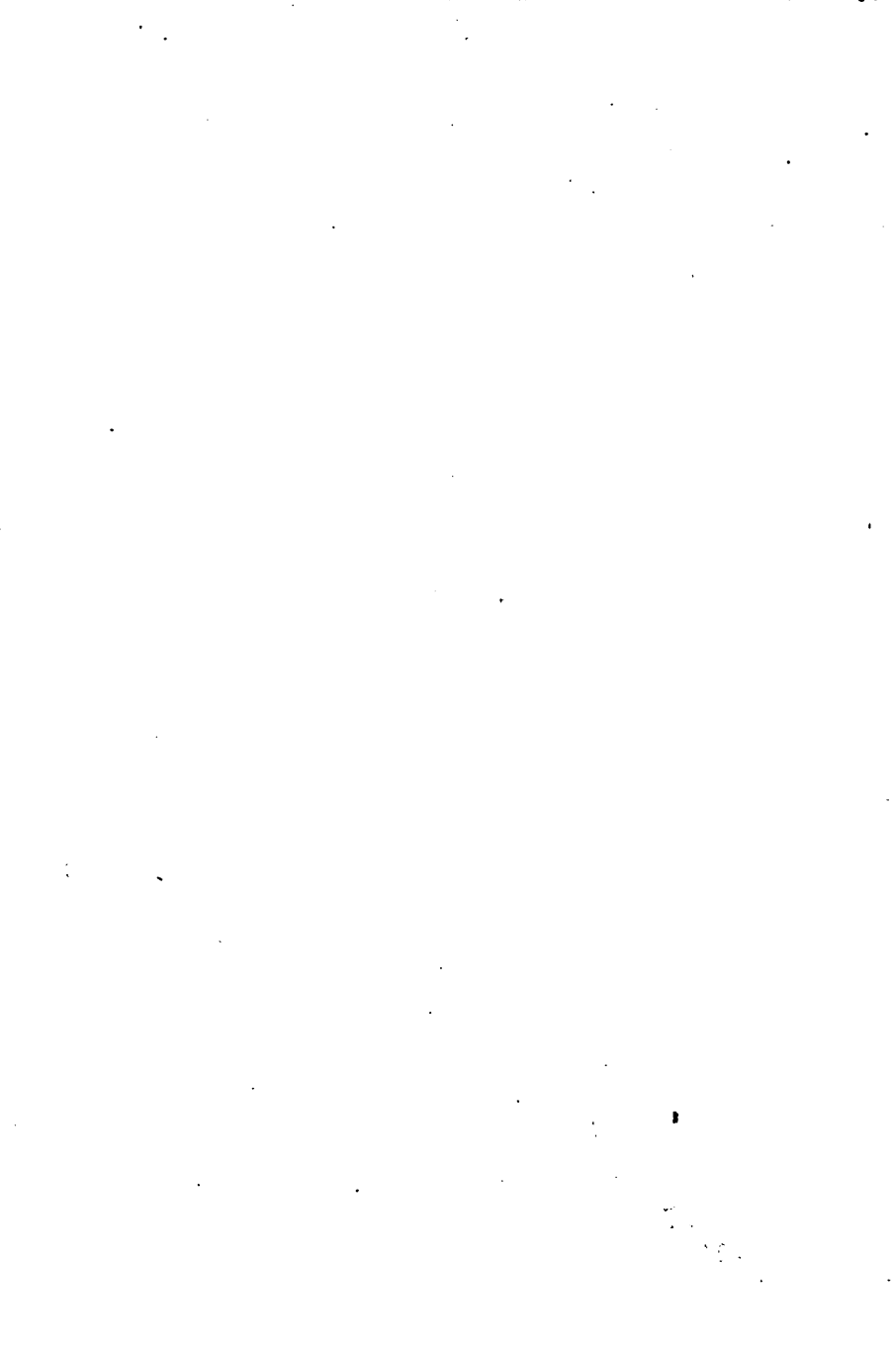
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